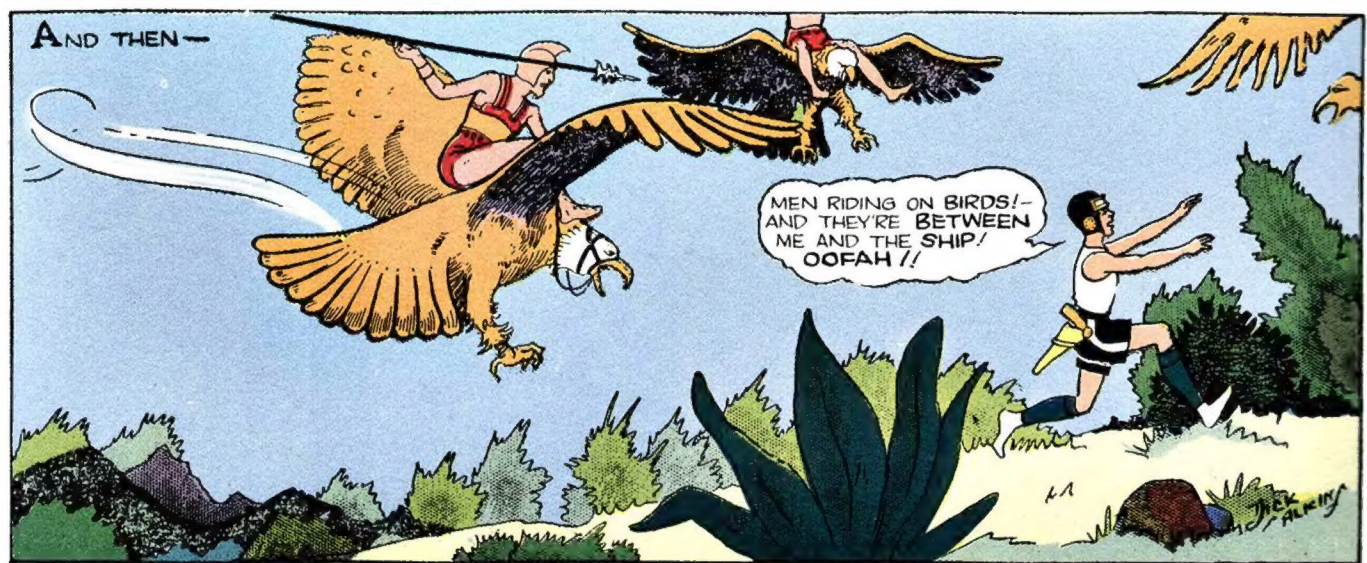


Buck Rogers

25th
CENTURY
A.D.



Sunday Story 04

"Marooned on Venus"

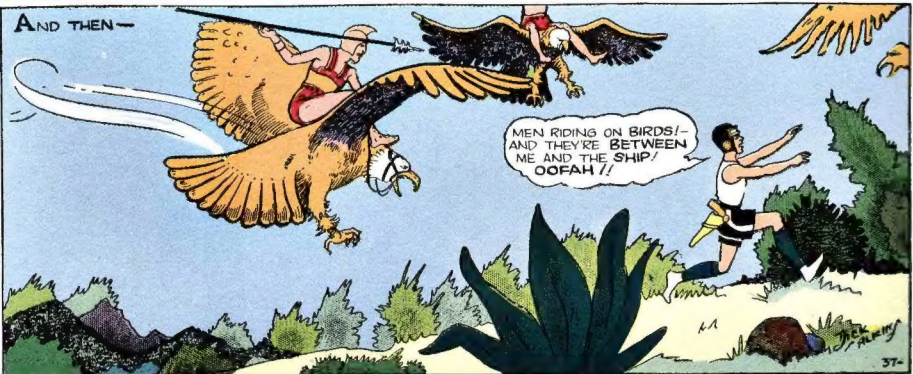
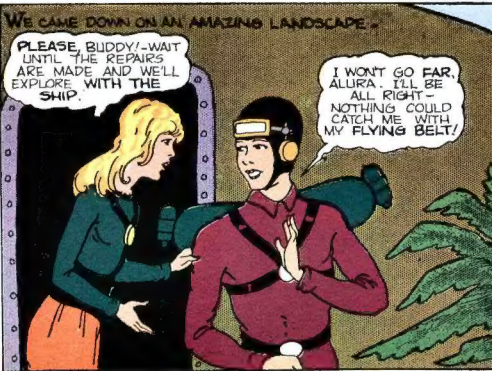
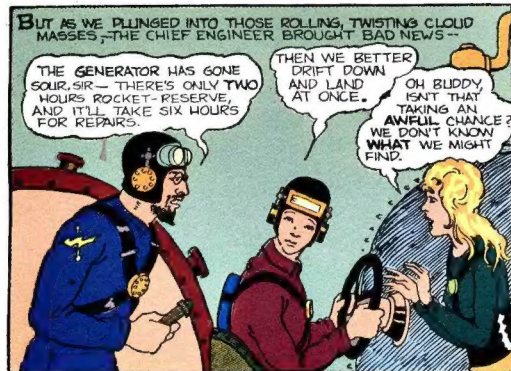
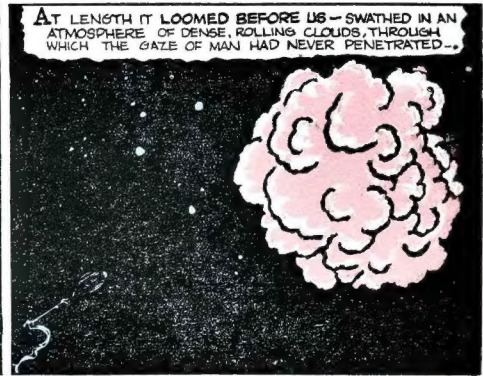
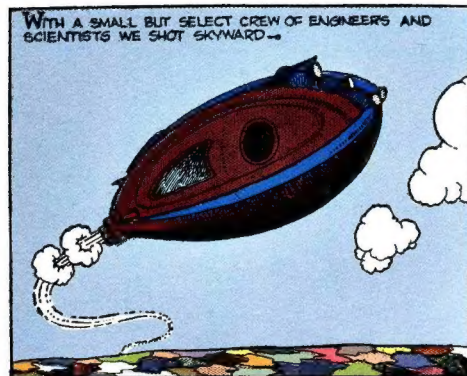
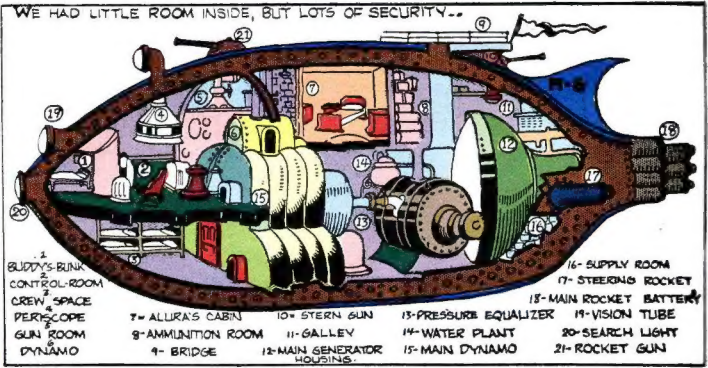
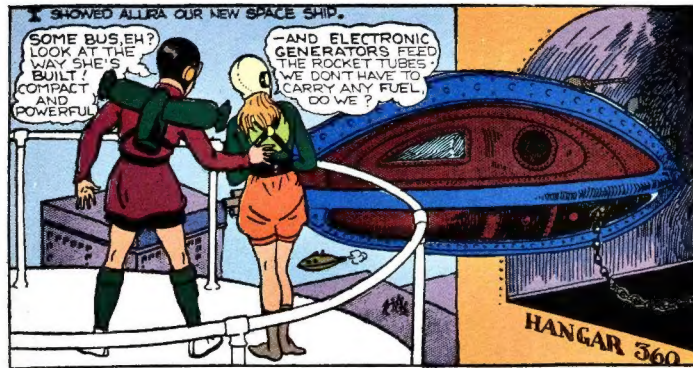
December 7, 1930 to July 12, 1931

Series I Strips 37 to 68

by Russell Keaton



THE BIRD RIDERS OF VENUS



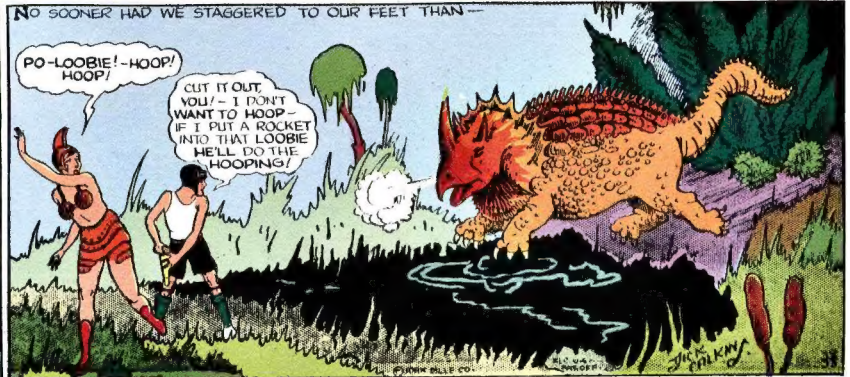
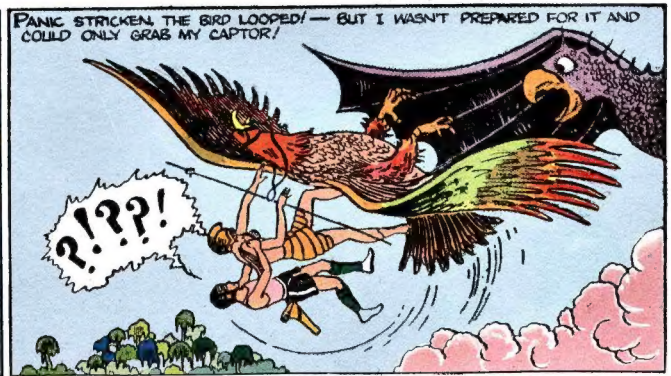
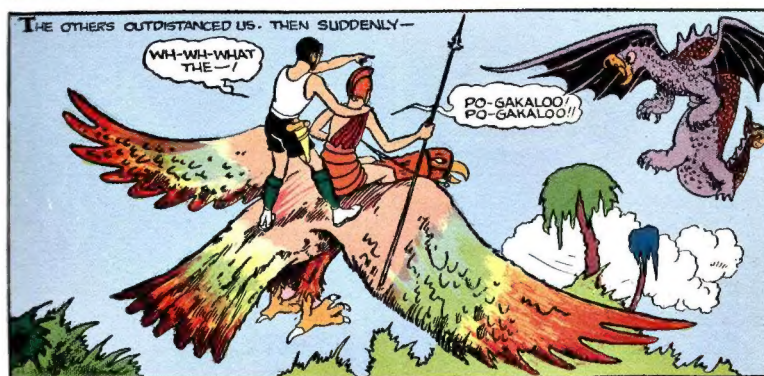
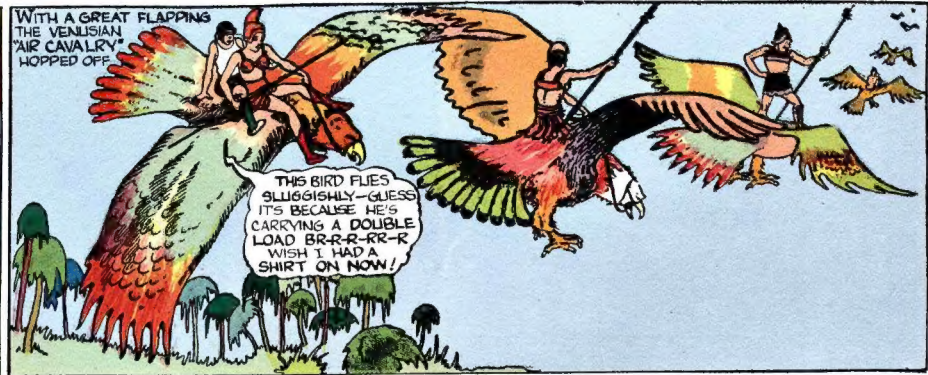
HERE I WAS ON THE DREAD
MISTY MYSTERIOUS PLANET OF
VENUS—WHOSE PERPETUAL
LAYER OF HEAVY CLOUDS FOR
AGES HAD HID THE SURFACE
OF THIS STRANGE WORLD
FROM EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL
TELESCOPES OF EARTH! I
WAS WITHOUT MOST OF MY
EQUIPMENT, OWING TO THE HOT,
STEAMY ATMOSPHERE—
AND I WAS CUT OFF FROM OUR
SPACE SHIP BY WARRIORS
RIDING GIANT BIRDS!

BUCK ROGERS

2430 A.D.

By PHIL NOWLAN
AND
DICK CALKINS

CAPTURED BY BIRD-RIDERS



ON OUR FIRST TRIP TO THE PLANET VENUS, I LEFT OUR SPACE SHIP FOR A BRIEF EXPLORATION. SO WARM AND STEAMY WAS THE ATMOSPHERE OF THIS STRANGE WORLD THAT I REMOVED MOST OF MY EQUIPMENT. WITHOUT MY FLYING-BELT, I WAS AT THE MERCY OF THE INHABITANTS, WHO SWOOPED DOWN ON ME. SUDDENLY, RIDING HUGE BIRDS, THEY CAPTURED ME, BUT, WITH MY GUARD, I WAS LEFT TO FACE THE ATTACK OF A GREAT BEAST RESEMBLING ONE OF THE PREHISTORIC MONSTERS OF EARTH.



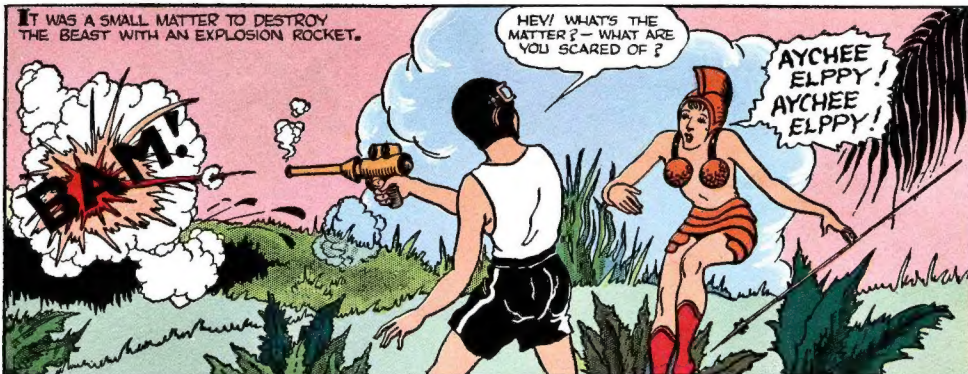
BUCK ROGERS

BY PHIL NOWLAN
&
JACK CALKINS

2430 A.D.

A BREAK FOR FREEDOM

IT WAS A SMALL MATTER TO DESTROY THE BEAST WITH AN EXPLOSION ROCKET.



HEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER?—WHAT ARE YOU SCARED OF?

AYCHEE ELPY!
AYCHEE ELPY!

THE NOISE SCARED THE WITS OUT OF MY CAPTOR!



COME BACK HERE! I'M LOST! YOU MUST HELP ME FIND MY SHIP!



HEY! I'M NOT GOING TO HURT YOU! COME BACK HERE!



AT LAST I CAUGHT HER—

YOU SCARED OF THIS ROCKET PISTOL?—LOOK I'M PUTTING IT AWAY. WISH I COULD UNDERSTAND YOUR LANGUAGE.

GALULA! OH GALULA!



SUDDENLY THERE WAS A GREAT WHIRRING OF WINGS ABOVE US.

IT'S THE OTHERS! THEY'VE COME BACK FOR US! THEY'LL JUMP ME! NOW! ALL RIGHT!

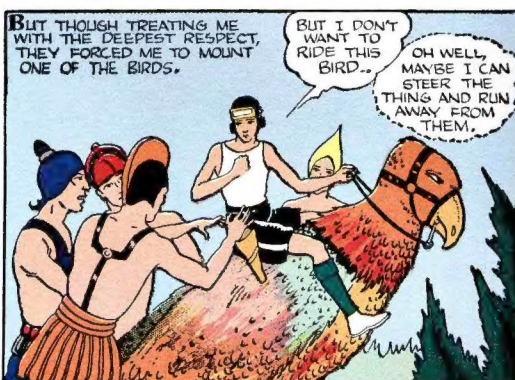
HO! HO!



TO MY SURPRISE, INSTEAD OF JUMPING ON ME THEY TREATED ME LIKE SOME DEITY.

THEY MUST THINK I'M A HEATHEN IDOL OR SOMETHING.

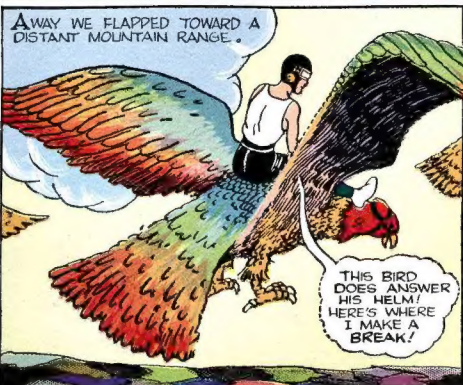
HO! HO! HO! HO! HO! HOHOHO! HOHOHO!



BUT THOUGH TREATING ME WITH THE DEEPEST RESPECT, THEY FORCED ME TO MOUNT ONE OF THE BIRDS.

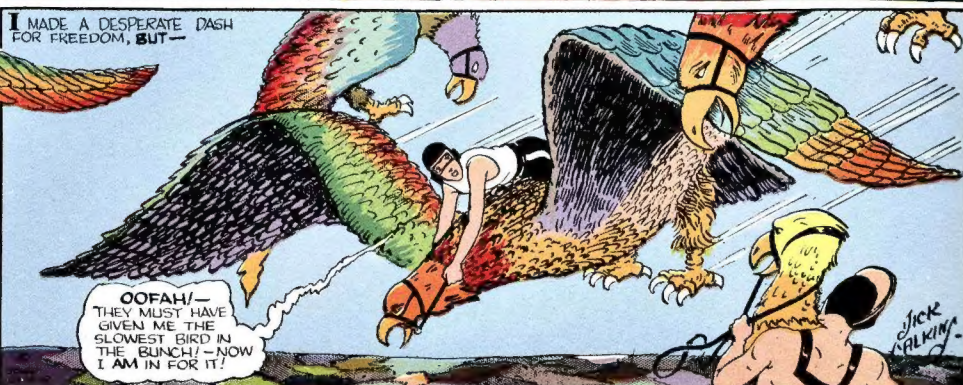
BUT I DON'T WANT TO RIDE THIS BIRD—

OH WELL, MAYBE I CAN STEER THE THING AND RUN AWAY FROM THEM.



AWAY WE FLAPPED TOWARD A DISTANT MOUNTAIN RANGE.

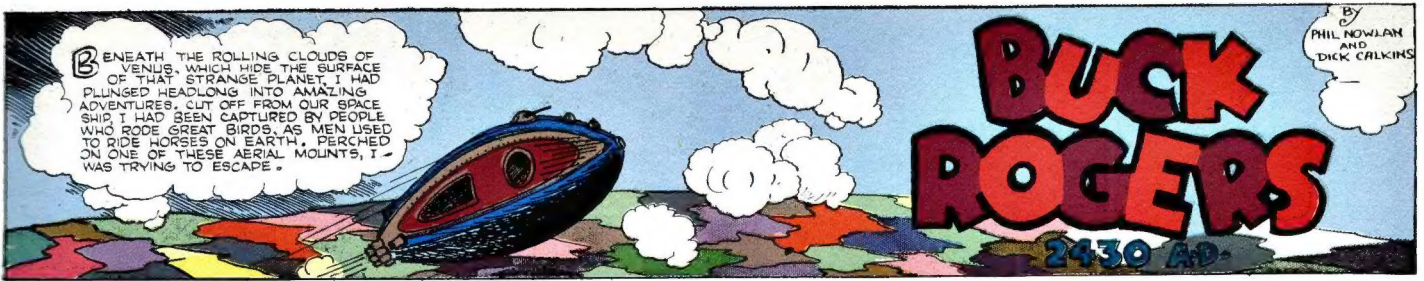
THIS BIRD DOES ANSWER HIS HELM! HERE'S WHERE I MAKE A BREAK!



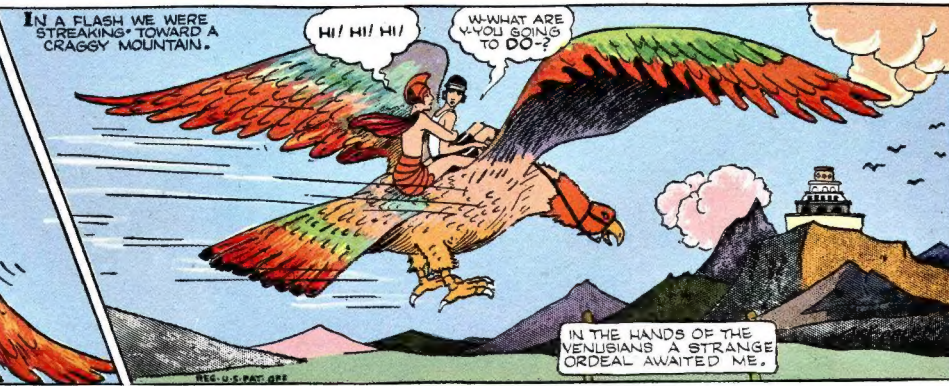
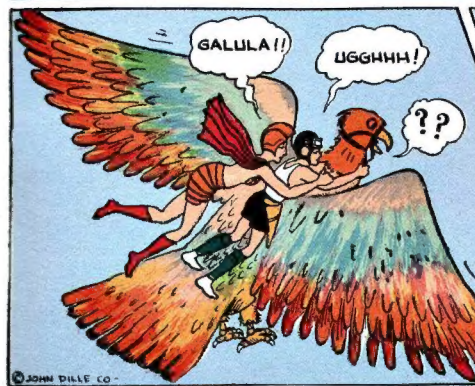
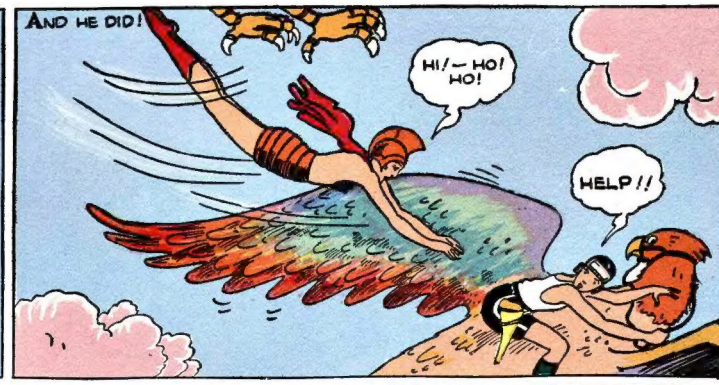
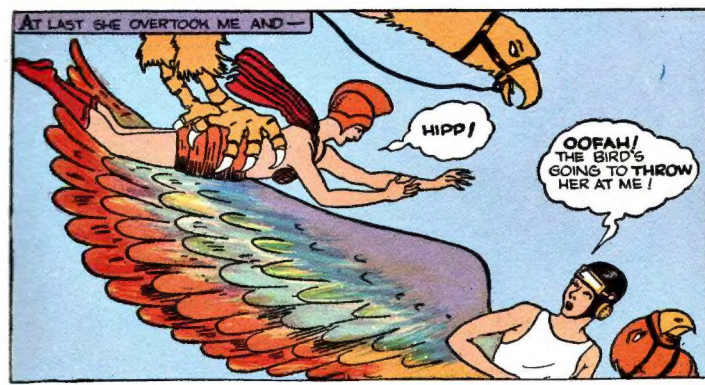
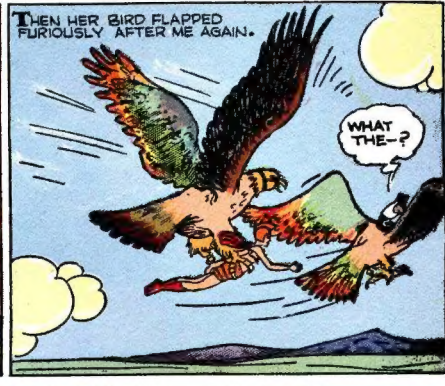
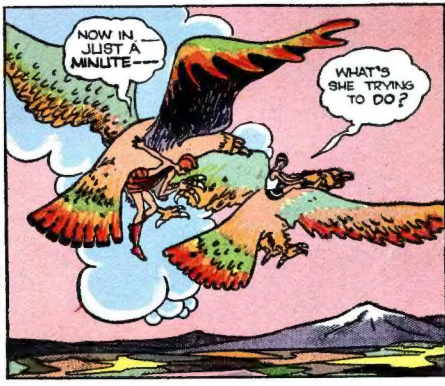
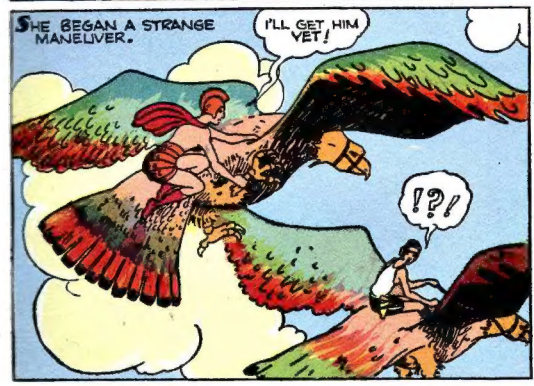
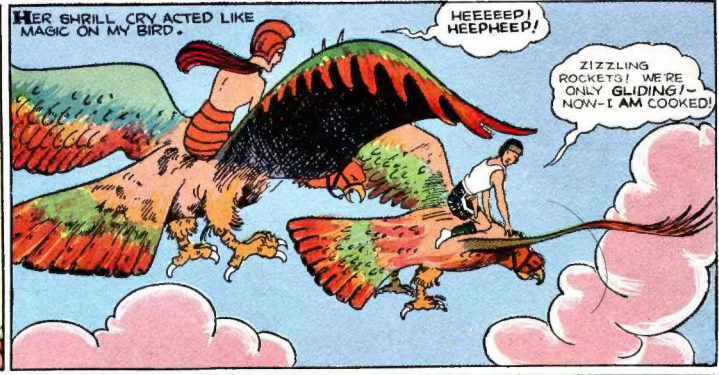
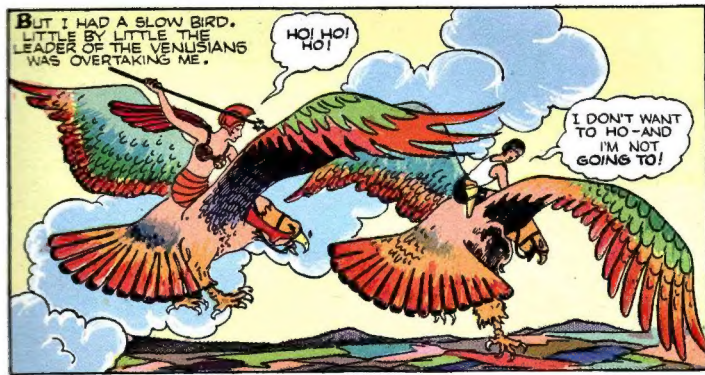
I MADE A DESPERATE DASH FOR FREEDOM, BUT—

OOF!—THEY MUST HAVE GIVEN ME THE SLOWEST BIRD IN THE BUNCH!—NOW I AM IN FOR IT!

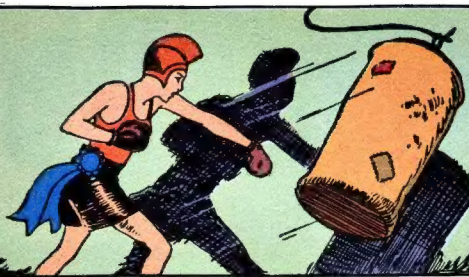
JACK CALKINS



RECAPTURED



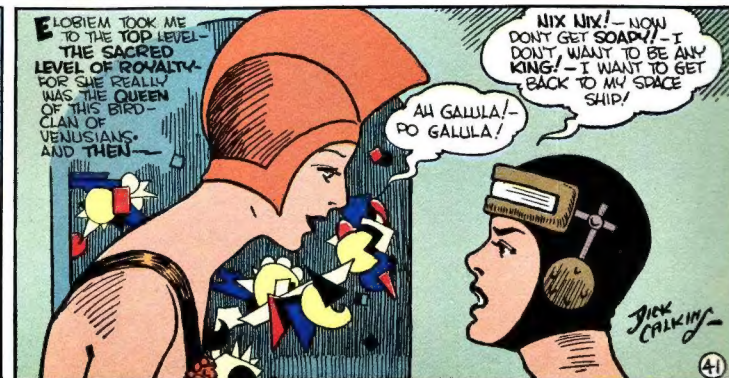
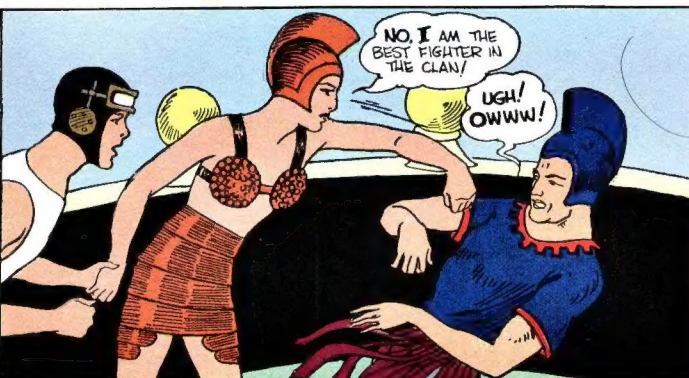
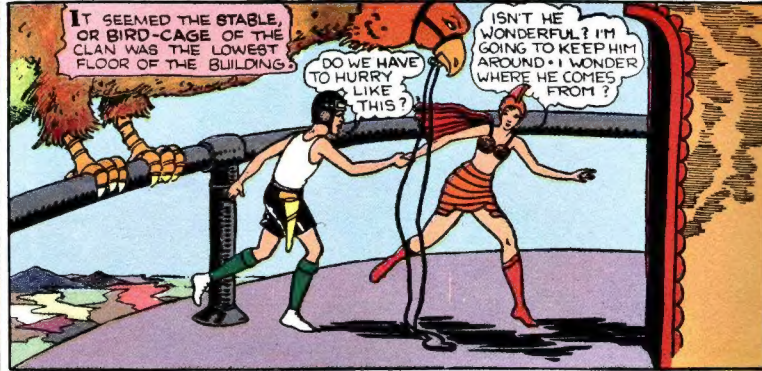
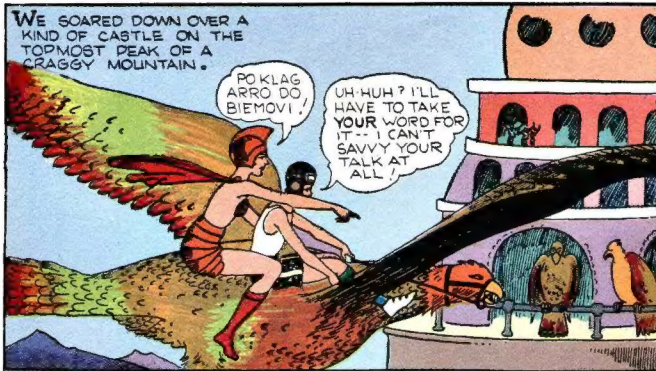
WE HAD LANDED OUR SPACE SHIP ON VENUS, BEING THE FIRST EARTHLINGS EVER TO GET FOOT ON THAT MYSTERIOUS PLANET. WHILE REPAIRS WERE BEING MADE TO THE SHIP'S GENERATORS I SET FORTH ALONE TO DO A LITTLE EXPLORING—THAT WAS WHERE I MADE MY BIG MISTAKE—I WAS CAPTURED BY STRANGE PEOPLE WHO RODE THE AIR ON GIANT BIRDS—AND HERE I WAS, A PRISONER, MINUS MY FLYING BELT AND MOST OF MY EQUIPMENT—



BUCK ROGERS

2431 A.D.

THE QUEEN'S CHOICE



I WANDERED AWAY FROM OUR SPACE SHIP WHEN WE LANDED ON THE PLANET VENUS, AND HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY A TRIBE OF BIEMOMI, AS THE BIRD-RIDING MEN OF THIS STRANGE WORLD CALLED THEMSELVES - THE WORST OF IT WAS THAT ELOBIEM, THEIR QUEEN, WANTED TO MARRY ME, AND GOT FIGHTING MAD WHEN I REFUSED.

Buddy Steering



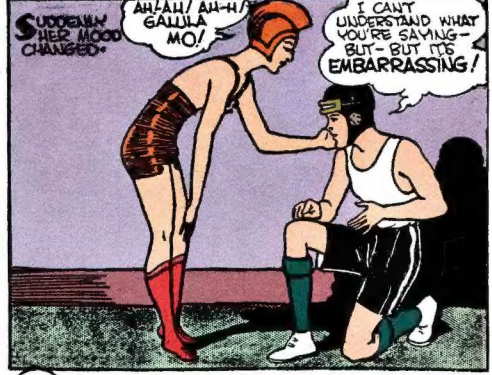
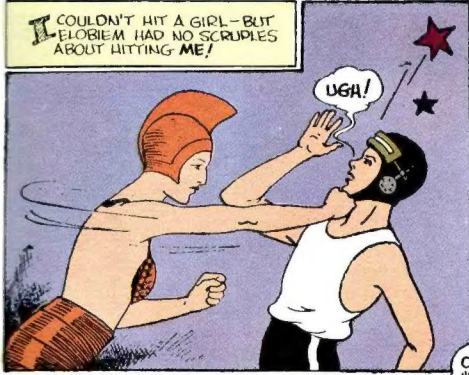
BUCK ROGERS

2431 AD.

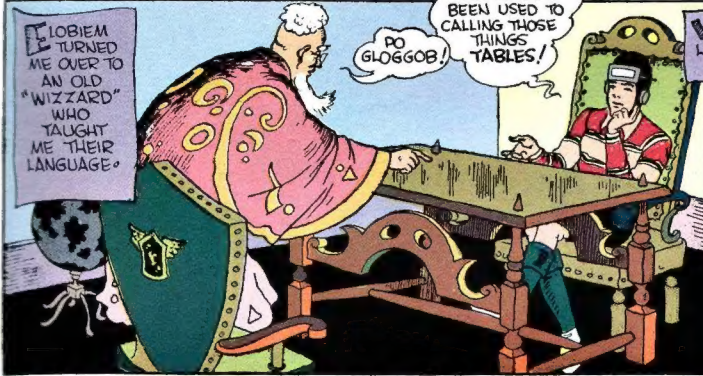
PHIL NOWLAN AND DICK CALKINS

THE DISASTROUS DUEL

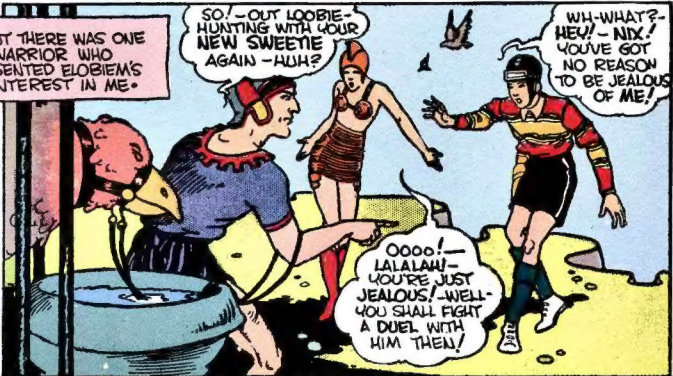
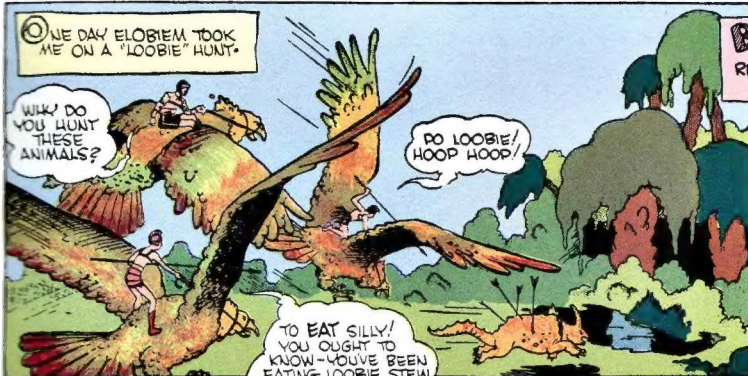
I COULDN'T HIT A GIRL - BUT ELOBIEM HAD NO SCRUPLES ABOUT HITTING ME!



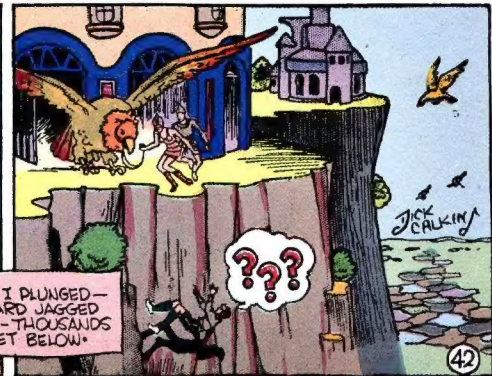
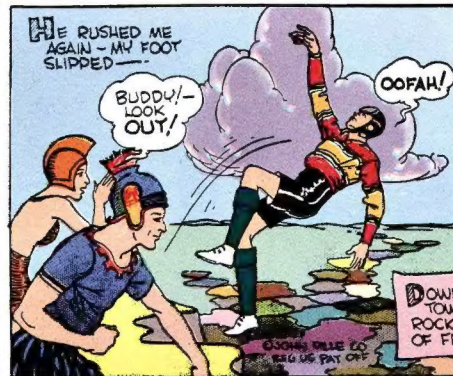
ELOBIEM TURNED ME OVER TO AN OLD "WIZZARD" WHO TAUGHT ME THEIR LANGUAGE.



ONE DAY ELOBIEM TOOK ME ON A "LOOBIE" HUNT.



WE RUSHED AT ME - THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING TO DO - I DID IT.



WHEN OUR SPACE SHIP FIRST LANDED ON THE PLANET VENUS, I FOOLISHLY LEFT IT TO DO A BIT OF SOLO EXPLORING - IT WAS OPPRESSIVELY HOT AND HUMID AND I REMOVED SOME OF MY CLOTHING FOR COMFORT - BEFORE I COULD PUT ON MY FLYING BELT AGAIN I WAS SUDDENLY ASSAILED AND CAPTURED BY A STRANGE RACE OF PEOPLE WHO RODE GIANT BIRDS LIKE FLYING HORSES - ELOBIEM, THEIR QUEEN, TOOK ME OFF TO THEIR MOUNTAIN-TOP CASTLE, WHERE A FIGHT WAS FORCED UPON ME BY ONE OF HER SUITORS WHO WAS JEALOUS OF HER INTEREST IN ME - IN THE STRUGGLE MY FOOT SLIPPED, AND I PLUNGED DOWN THE FACE OF THE PERPENDICULAR CLIFF

BUCK ROGERS

2431 A.D.

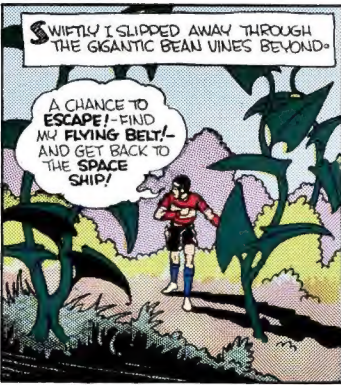
131- PHIL NOWLAN AND DICK CALKING

FLYING GHARKAS AND JUNGLE MEN



JUST LIKE THE NETS THEY USE IN A CIRCUS!

I LANDED IN A TANGLED GROWTH OF GIANT FERNS - THEY BROKE MY FALL -



SWIFTLY I SLIPPED AWAY THROUGH THE GIANTIC BEAN VINES BEYOND -

A CHANCE TO ESCAPE! - FIND MY FLYING BELT! - AND GET BACK TO THE SPACE SHIP!



AT LENGTH I CAME TO A SWAMP - AND DRAGGED THROUGH IT

IT'S TOUGH GOING ALL RIGHT - BUT I'M SURE OF THE DIRECTION!



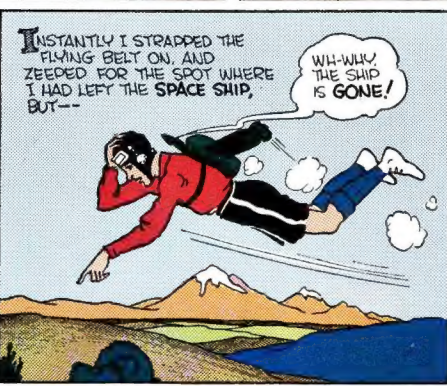
FARTHER ON THE VEGETATION WAS EVEN MORE AMAZING -

GOSH! THESE LOOK JUST LIKE GIANT STRAWBERRIES! - WHAT A CRAZY, OVERGROWN PLANET THIS IS!



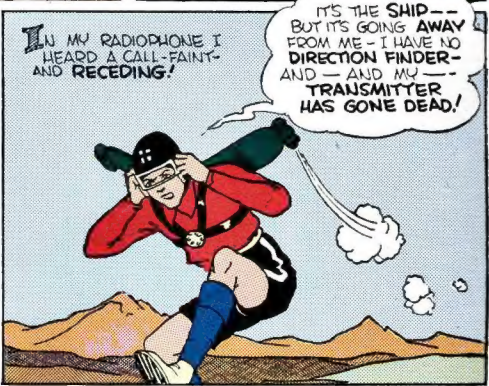
IN THE END I REACHED THE GLADE WHERE I HAD LEFT MY FLYING BELT - HANGING UPWARD!

HOO-RAY! - IT'S STILL THERE! - AND NOBODY'S TOUCHED IT!



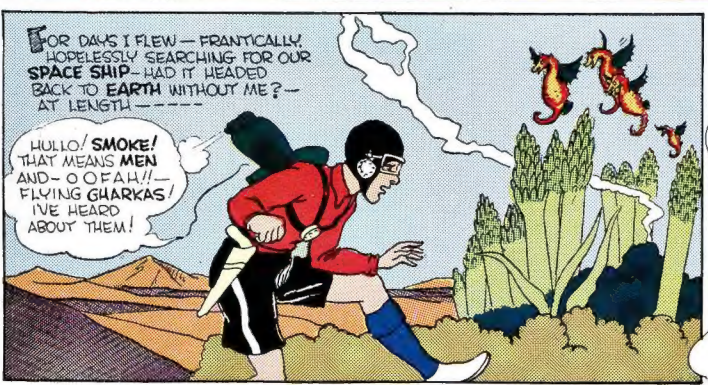
INSTANTLY I STRAPPED THE FLYING BELT ON, AND ZEEPED FOR THE SPOT WHERE I HAD LEFT THE SPACE SHIP, BUT -

WH-WHY THE SHIP IS GONE!



IN MY RADIOPHONE I HEARD A CALL - FAINT - AND RECEDING!

IT'S THE SHIP - BUT IT'S GOING AWAY FROM ME - I HAVE NO DIRECTION FINDER - AND - AND MY - TRANSMITTER HAS GONE DEAD!



FOR DAYS I FLEW - FRANTICALLY, HOPELESSLY SEARCHING FOR OUR SPACE SHIP - HAD IT HEADED BACK TO EARTH WITHOUT ME? - AT LENGTH -

HULLO! SMOKE! THAT MEANS MEN AND - O OFAH!! - FLYING GHARKAS! I'VE HEARD ABOUT THEM!



BEFORE I KNEW IT -

THESE THINGS ARE INTELLIGENT! - THEY - THEY'RE TRYING TO CAPTURE ME! - OOFAH! LET GO OF ME! - YOU - YOU GHARKAS!

WH-WH-WHAT - WH-WH-WHO - I MEAN - ER - GOSH! WHAT HAVE I GOT INTO!!!



GENTLY THE FLYING GHARKAS SET ME DOWN IN THE MIDST OF AN ASTOUNDING SCENE -

DICK CALKING

NEVER DID ANY LAD ON EARTH HAVE SUCH WILD ADVENTURES AS WERE MINE AFTER OUR SPACE SHIP LANDED ON THE PLANET VENUS. AND I GOT LOST—ELOBIEM, QUEEN OF THE BIRD-RIDERS OF THAT STRANGE WORLD, WANTED TO MAKE ME HER KING. BUT I ESCAPED—ONLY TO FALL IN WITH ANOTHER RACE, THE JUNGLE FOLK, WHOSE HABITS AND CUSTOMS WERE MOST EXTRAORDINARY.

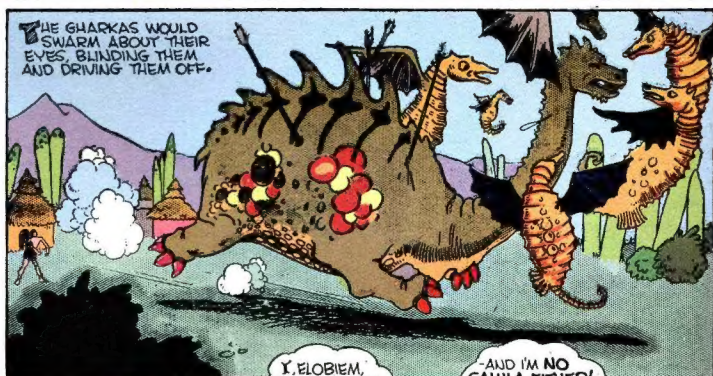
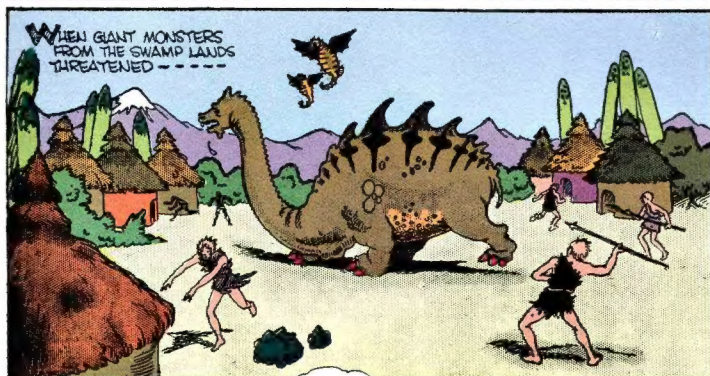
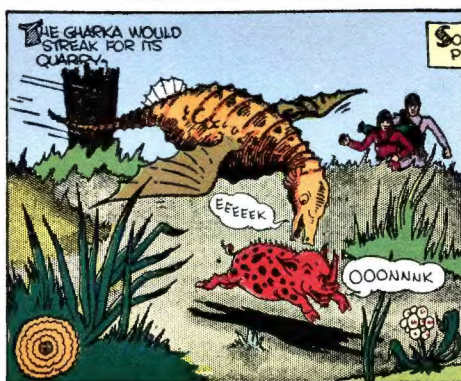
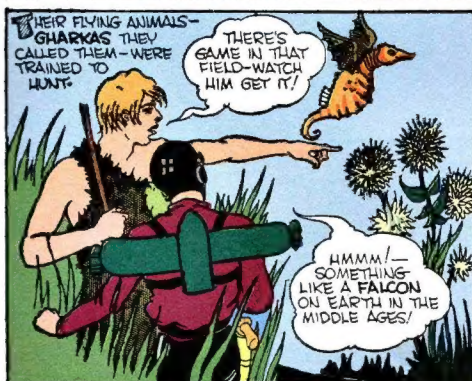


BUCK ROGERS

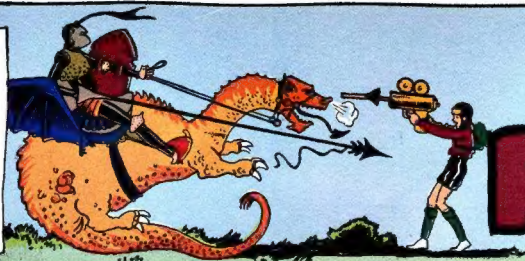
2431 AD.

By PAUL HOWLAIN AND DICK CALKINS

TRAILED BY BIRD-QUEEN



ONE DANGER AFTER ANOTHER HAD THREATENED ME SINCE OUR SPACE SHIP LANDED ON THE PLANET VENUS— FIRST I GOT LOST— THEN I WAS CAPTURED BY BIRD-RIDING—MEN AND THEIR BEAUTIFUL YOUNG QUEEN— I ESCAPED, BUT NO SOONER HAD I SETTLED AMONG THE KINDLY JUNGLE FOLK THAN THE BIRD MEN FOUND ME AGAIN, AND FOLLOWED BY A GHARKA, ONE OF THOSE INTELLIGENT FLYING ANIMALS OF THIS STRANGE PLANET, I MADE ANOTHER BREAK FOR FREEDOM.



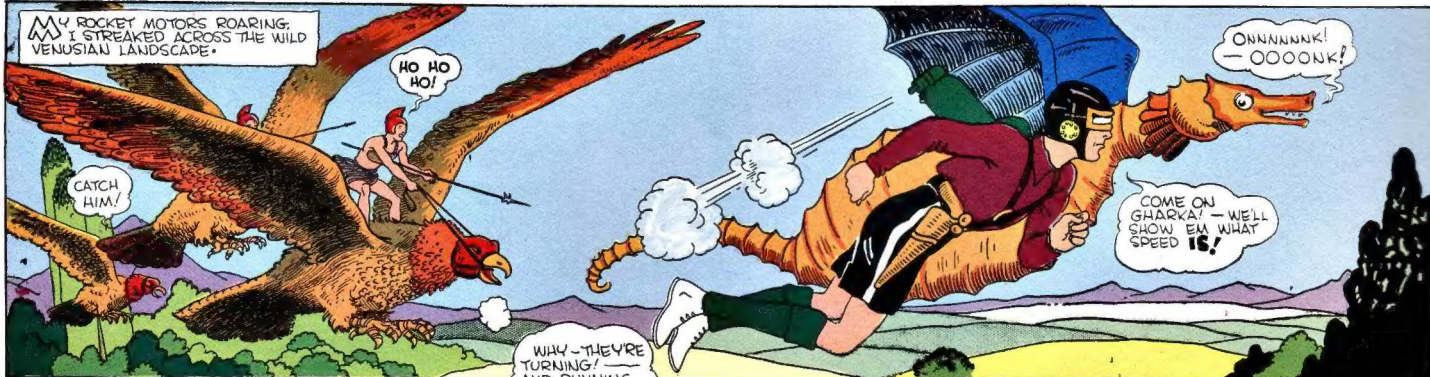
BUCK ROGERS

2431 A.D.

PHIL NOWLAN
DICK CALKINS

THE RAID OF THE DRAGON-RIDERS

MY ROCKET MOTORS ROARING, I STREAKED ACROSS THE WILD VENUSIAN LANDSCAPE.



THE BIRD RIDERS WERE FAR BEHIND WHEN I TURNED TO LOOK AT THEM AND ———



FRANTICALLY THE GHARKA GRABBED AND PULLED AT ME.



THE FAITHFUL ANIMAL WAS SO FRIGHTENED THAT ———



SO I FLASHED BACK INTO THE GROVE WHERE ———



IN AN INSTANT THE DRAGON RIDERS WERE SWEEPING DOWN ON US IN AN OVERWHELMING HORDE!



DICK CALKINS

WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF INTERPLANETARY NAVIGATION I HAD HAD AMAZING ADVENTURES ON MARS - AND ON PLUTO, THE PLANET BEYOND NEPTUNE - BUT EVEN MORE ASTOUNDING DANGERS HAD BESET ME ON VENUS, THE MOST MYSTERIOUS PLANET OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM - LOST FROM MY ROCKET SHIP, I WAS CAPTURED FIRST BY GHO-RIDERS, THEN BY JUNGLE FOLK - JUST AS A BATTLE IMPENDED BETWEEN THE TWO RACES FOR POSSESSION OF ME WE WERE ALL ATTACKED BY THE TERRIBLE DRAGON RIDERS!

HO VARLET! BRING US A QUART OF ICE CREAM!

BUCK ROGERS

2431 A.D.

By PHIL KOWLAN AND DICK CALKINS

ROCKET SHIP TO RESCUE

ON SWIFT THE DRAGON WARRIORS! - I FIRE BY THE EFFECT WAS DEVASTATING!

HA! MAGIC!

I GUESS THE ROCKET FISH FROM GOOD OLD EARTH WILL HOLD 'EM!

BLAM!

I DOUBT IT!

I HAD BLASTED THE DRAGONS - BUT THE RIDERS LEAPED CLEAR AND RUSHED US!

UP AND AT 'EM!

THEIR HEAVY ARMOR PROTECTED THEM!

HO! HO! HO!

AT THIS INSTANT -

THE ROCKET SHIP! - IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING THE DRAGON-RIDERS!

MORE MAGIC!

LOOK HAUGHTY! IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!

OH BUDDY! - WE'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST! - AND JUST IN TIME!

IN A FLASH, EVENTS TOOK AN AMAZING TURN!

MAGIC!

SUCH AS THIS WORLD HAS NEVER KNOWN!

A SKY-FLYING EGG!

WHICH HATCHES A GIRL!

WE HAVE HAD A MAGICIAN IN OUR MIDS!

SEE! - HE IS KING OF THE FLYING EGG!

LET US MAKE HIM KING OF THE PLANET!

JOHN CULL CO. FOR THE PLOT ONLY

DICK CALKINS

(TO BE CONTINUED)

(46)


BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

Written by - PHIL NOWLAN

THE REIGN OF SCIENCE

Drawn by - DICK CALKINS

BY A STRANGE TWIST OF FATE, AFTER EATING A SERIES OF DESPERATE DANGERS ON THAT AMAZING PLANET, VENUS - ALURA, PRINCESS OF MARS, AND I, BUDDY DEERING OF EARTH, HAD BEEN ENTHUSIASTICALLY HAILED BY THE VENUSIANS AS KING AND QUEEN OF THEIR FUTURE PLANET.




ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS WE DID - WITH THE AID OF THE SCIENTISTS OF OUR ROCKET SHIP - WAS TO BUILD AN ELECTRONIC POWER PLANT.

BUT THE DUMBELS HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN THE PLAN!

WE MUST BE PATIENT. BLUE BELTS ARE NEW TO THEM.

SEE HOW HARD THEY'RE WORKING!



WE STARTED THE PRODUCTION OF FLYING BELTS AND LIFTERS AT ONCE.

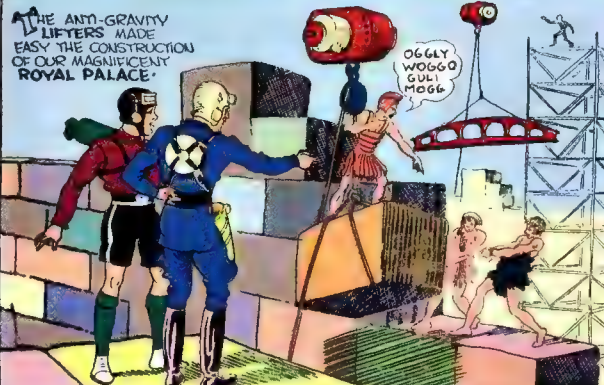
OUR BELOVED SUBJECTS SEEM TICKLED WITH THE ANTI-GRAVITY DEVICES.

LIKE A BUNCH OF MOS-APES - THEY!



THE ANTI-GRAVITY LIFTERS MADE EASY THE CONSTRUCTION OF OUR MAGNIFICENT ROYAL PALACE.

OGGGG WOGGG GULL MOGG

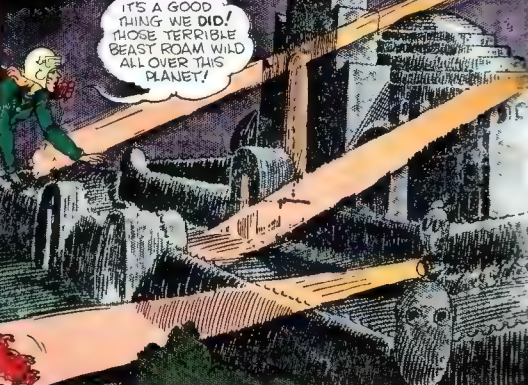


WHEN IT WAS FINISHED WE SURROUNDED IT FOR PROTECTION WITH THE FORCE RAYS ABOUT WHICH THE INHABITANTS OF SATURN HAD TAUGHT US.

HABA! THAT ONE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT STRUCK HIM!



IT'S A GOOD THING WE DID! THOSE TERRIBLE BEAST THING WILD ALL OVER THIS PLANET!



AND YOU, ELOBEIM, SHALL BE CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S GUARD!

YOUR MAJESTY WILL FIND US LOYAL UNTO DEATH!

ALURA RECRUITED A COMPANY OF GIRLS AND EQUIPPED THEM WITH FLYING BELTS.



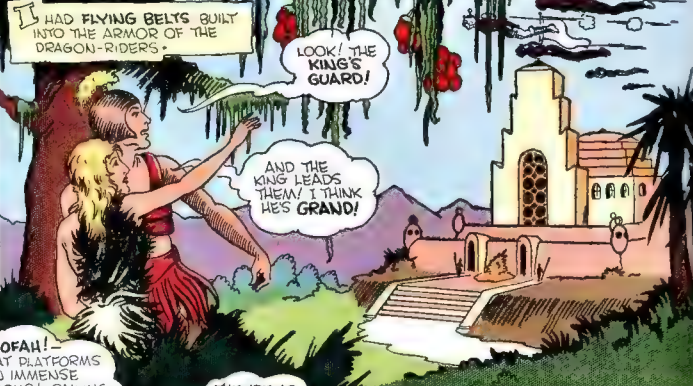
I HAD FLYING BELTS BUILT INTO THE ARMOR OF THE DRAGON-RIDERS.

LOOK! THE KING'S GUARD!

AND THE KING LEADS THEM! I THINK HE'S GRAND!

OOFAH! - GREAT PLATFORMS ON IMMENSE PONTONS! - SAILING SHIPS WITH HINGED YARD ARMS - WHO ARE THEY? WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

THEY'RE AS MUCH OF A MYSTERY TO US AS TO YOUR MAJESTY - BUT THEY LOOK HOSTILE TO ME - WHAT SHALL WE DO?



EVERYTHING WAS READY FOR OUR CORONATION WHEN -

YOUR MAJESTY A STRANGE FLEET OF WATER-CRAFT IS APPROACHING THE COAST?

HUH? WE'LL FLY OUT AND LOOK 'EM OVER!



EVERYTHING WAS READY FOR OUR CORONATION WHEN -

YOUR MAJESTY A STRANGE FLEET OF WATER-CRAFT IS APPROACHING THE COAST?

HUH? WE'LL FLY OUT AND LOOK 'EM OVER!



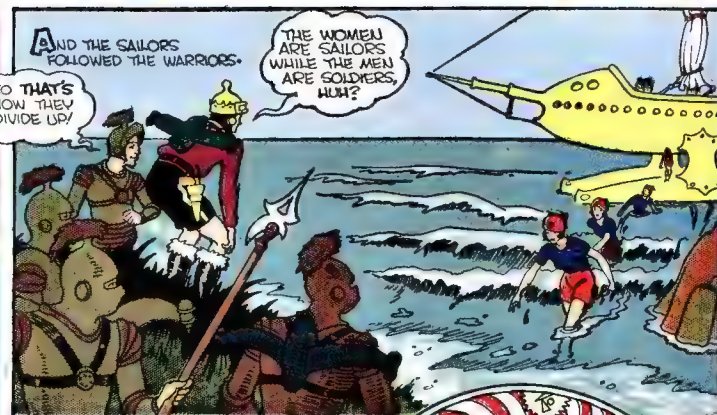
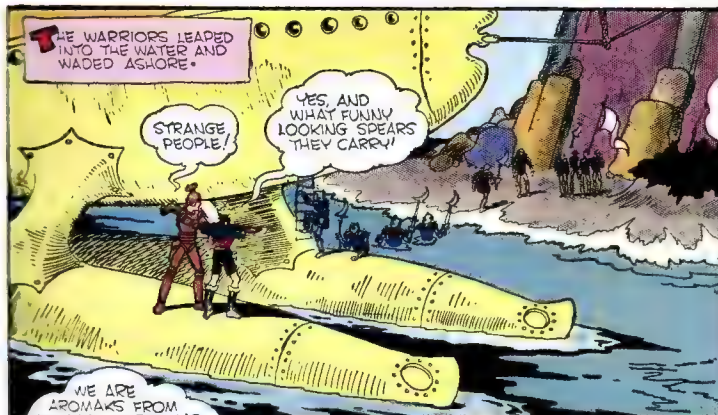
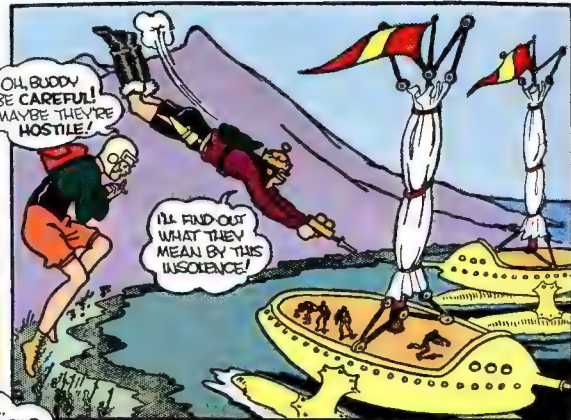
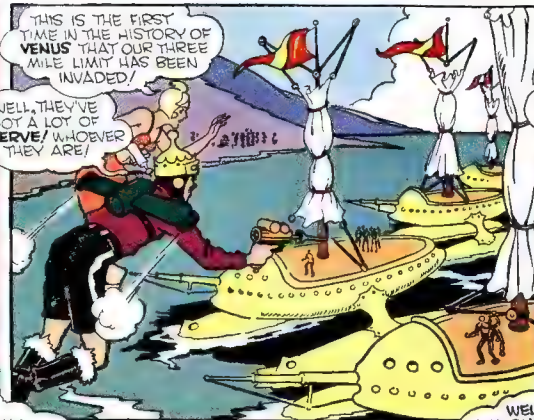
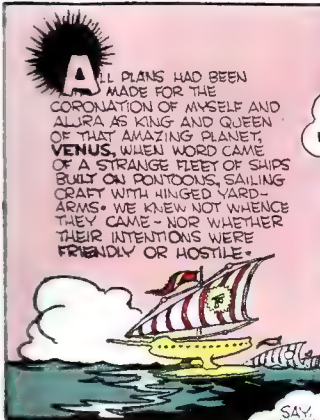
DICK CALKINS

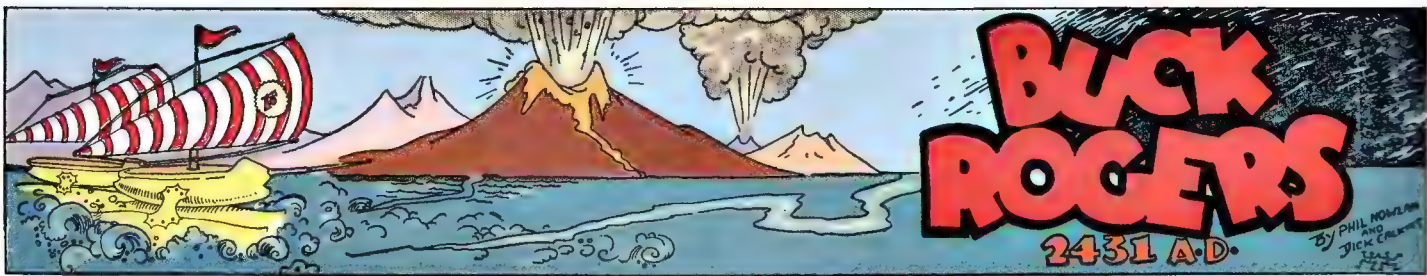
BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

— PHIL NOWLAN

THE CORONATION

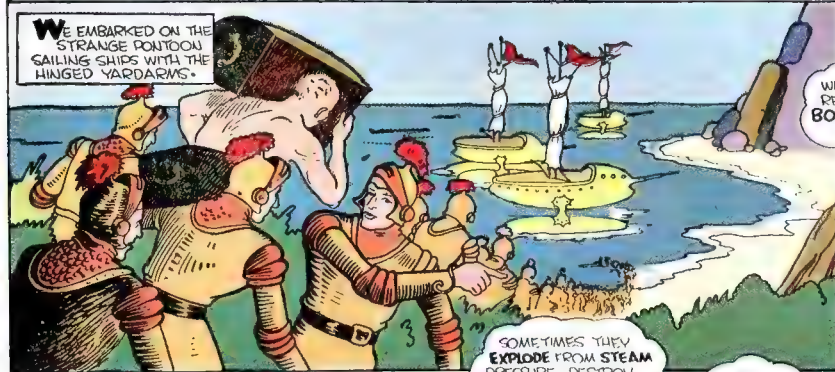
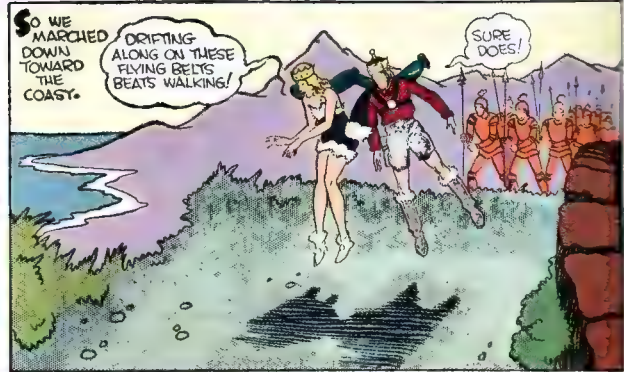
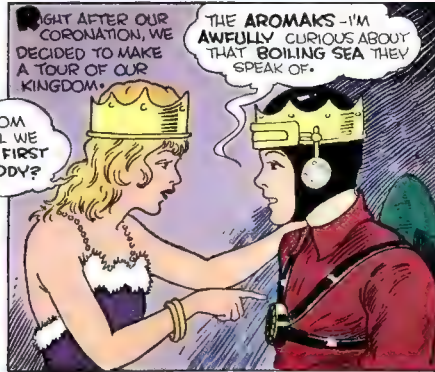
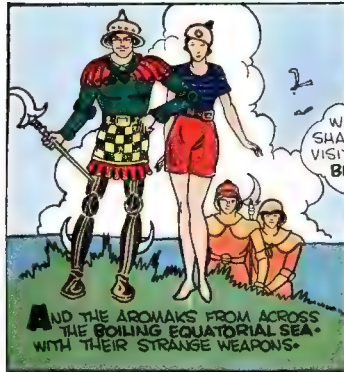
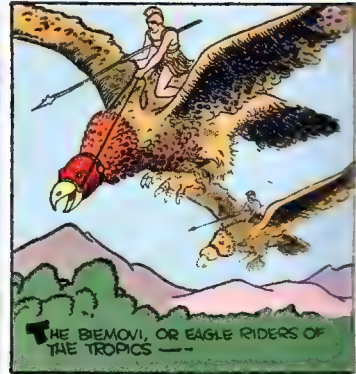
— DICK CALKINS

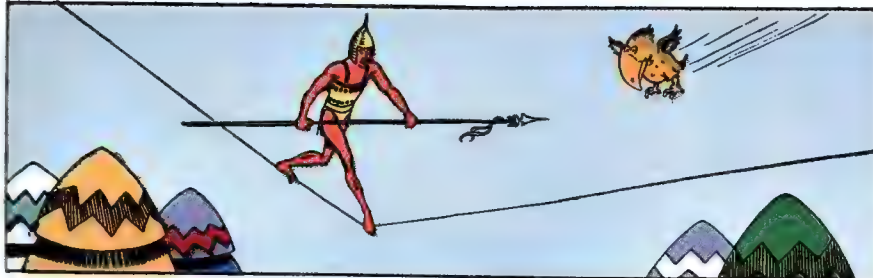




THE WIRE WALKERS

SO GREAT HAD BEEN THE DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENCE ON EARTH BY THE 25TH CENTURY THAT WHEN WE FIRST ROCKETED THROUGH THE VOIDS OF SPACE AND LANDED ON THAT AMAZING PLANET, VENUS, ITS INHABITANTS REGARDED US AS SUPERIOR BEINGS - THEY INSISTED THAT I, BUDDY DEERING, BROTHER OF WILMA AND FRIEND OF BUCK ROGERS, SHOULD BECOME THEIR KING - AND AURA, THE LITTLE MARTIAN PRINCESS WHO SHARED OUR INTERPLANETARY ADVENTURE, ALSO SHARED MY THRONE. THERE WERE NOBLE AND PICTURESQUE RACES AMONG OUR LOYAL SUBJECTS, INCLUDING *****





BUCK ROGERS

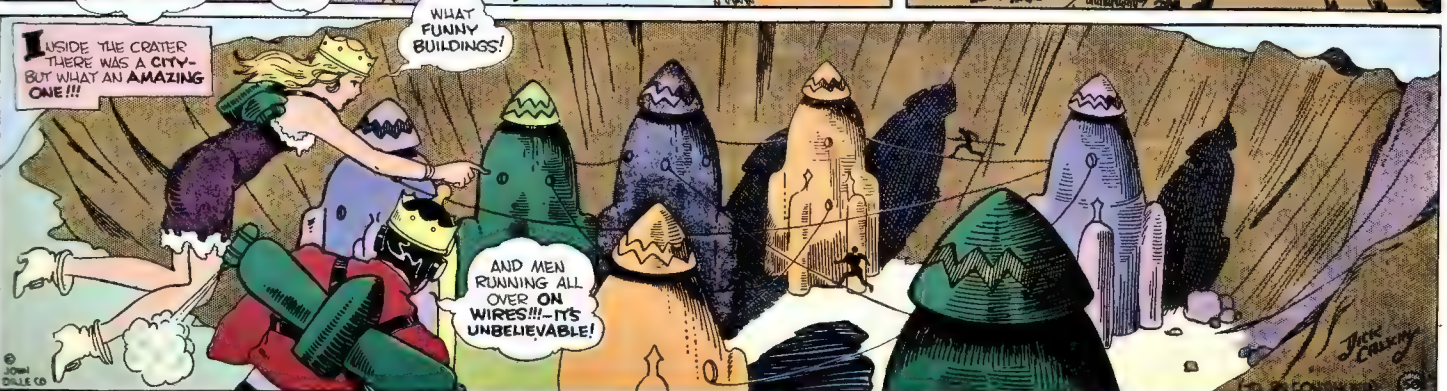
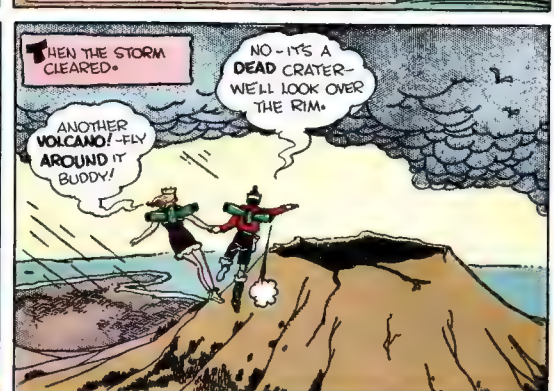
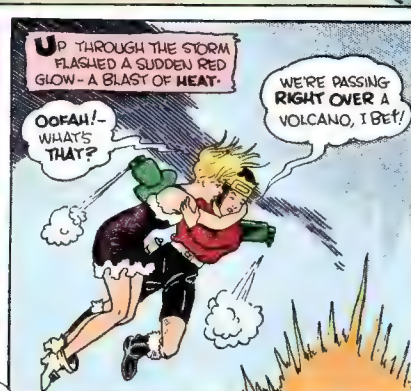
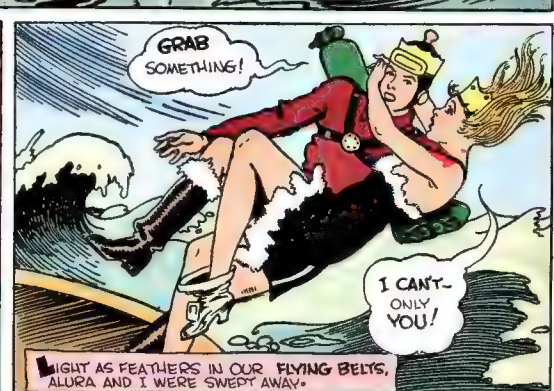
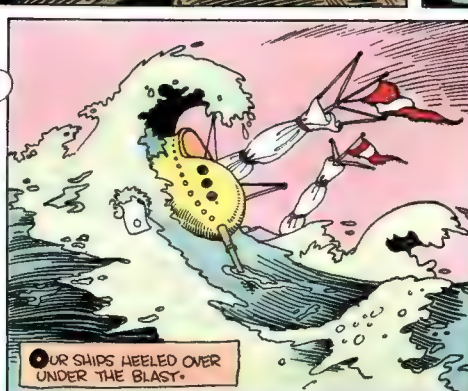
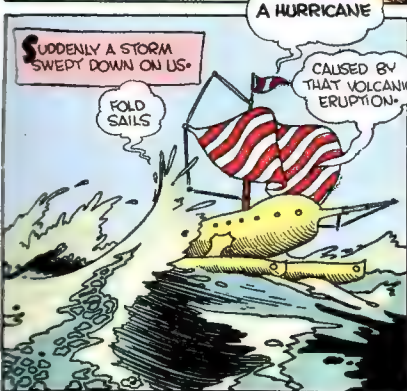
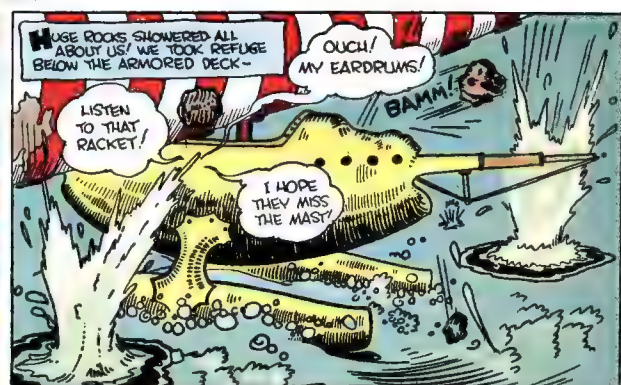
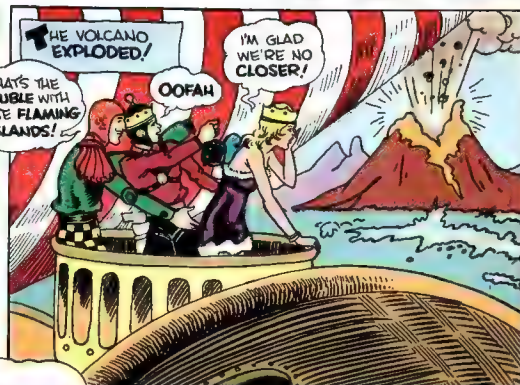
By PHIL NOWLAN AND DICK CALKINS

.. 2431 A.D. ..

THE WIRE WALKERS

I HAD BEEN MADE KING OF THE PLANET VENUS—AND ALURA WAS QUEEN BUT WE MET WITH DISASTER ON OUR VERY FIRST ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE BOILING EQUATORIAL SEA TO VISIT THE LAND OF THE AROMAKS—

Buddy Seering



BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

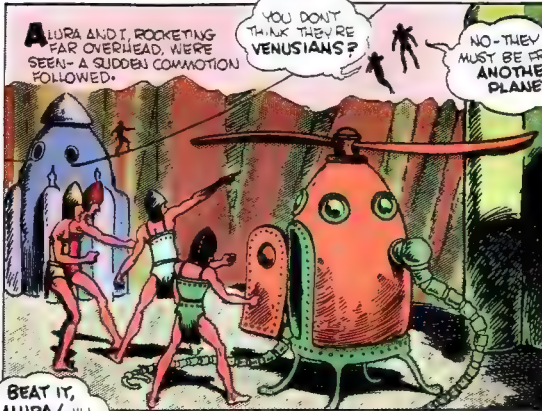
Written by PHIL NOWLAN

CAPTURED!

Drawn by DICK CALKINS



BUDDY DEERING, AND AURA OF MARS, HAD BEEN MADE KING AND QUEEN OF THAT CLOUD-ENSHROUDED PLANET OF MYSTERY-VENUS—BUT IN TOURING OUR DOMAIN, WE HAD BEEN BLOWN AWAY FROM OUR ESCORT IN A TERRIBLE STORM—ONLY OUR ROCKET-MOTORED FLYING-BELTS HAD SAVED US—THEN WE HAD COME UPON AN AMAZING CITY OF TALL, THIN PEOPLE WHO WALKED WITH EASE ON WIRES STRETCHED FROM BUILDING TO BUILDING.....



AURA AND I, ROCKETING FAR OVERHEAD, WERE SEEN—A SUDDEN COMMOTION FOLLOWED.

YOU DON'T THINK THEY'RE VENUSIANS?

NO—THEY MUST BE FROM ANOTHER PLANET!

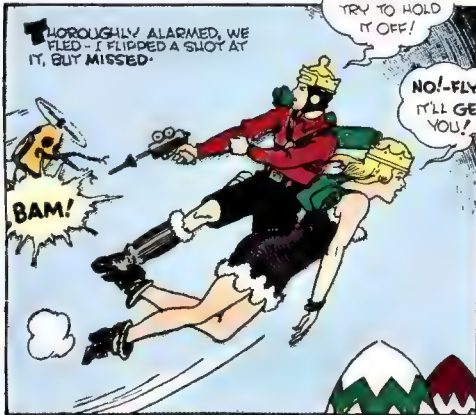


AN AMAZING SHIP ROARED SKYWARD.

NOW WE'LL FIND OUT WHO THEY ARE.

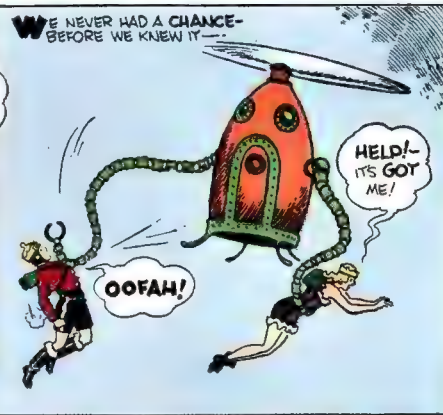
NO NO!—LET'S FLY!—THAT SHIP LOOKS HOSTILE!

BEAT IT, AURA!—I'LL TRY TO HOLD IT OFF!



THOROUGHLY ALARMED, WE FLED—I FLIPPED A SHOT AT IT, BUT MISSED.

NO!—FLY!—I'LL GET YOU!



WE NEVER HAD A CHANCE—BEFORE WE KNEW IT—

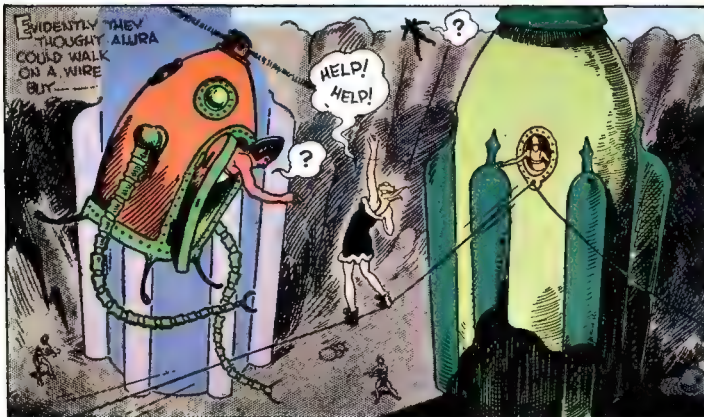
OOFAH!

HELP!—IT'S GOT ME!



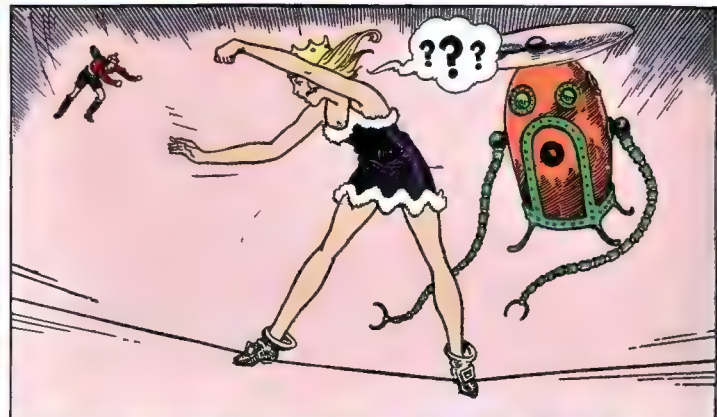
AS I WHIRLED ABOUT, DAZED BY THE BLOW—

MY FLYING-BELT!—IT'S BEEN WRNCHED OFF!



EVIDENTLY THEY THOUGHT AURA COULD WALK ON A WIRE—BUT—

HELP! HELP!



???



HANG ON, AURA!—HANG ON!

I—I CAN'T—I'M—SLIPPING!

BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

HELD AS "SPECIMENS"

BLOWN FROM THE ROYAL SHIP BY A GREAT STORM, WE FELL FOUL OF STRANGE BEINGS WHO SEEMED TO BE FROM STILL ANOTHER PLANET. ALURA, STRIPPED OF HER FLYING BELT, CLUNG TO ONE OF THE WIRES ON WHICH THESE CREATURES RAN ABOUT SO EASILY, AND

ALURA WAS ABOUT TO DROP, WHEN—

THEY ARE FROM SOME OTHER PLANET—

THE DRAG OF THE STRANGE CREATURES' WEIGHT WHIRLED US OVER.

I CAN'T KICK HIM LOOSE!—AND I CAN'T DROP HIM! HIS FINGERS ARE LIKE STEEL!

MY FLYING BELT COULDN'T BEAR THE WEIGHT OF THREE—DOWN WE DRIFTED.

WE WERE IN THEIR GRASP.

BUT WHAT PLANET?

ONE SLIPPED THE ROCKET-CARTRIDGE FROM MY FLYING-BELT—ANOTHER BARKED AN ORDER.

NO USE RESISTING, BUDDY—THEY'VE GOT US!

UG! GOG-DOOLA!

HEV!—LET GO—OR I'LL—

TWO OF THEM CAME RUNNING—WITH BIG GLASS TUBES.

OH BUDDY—THEY'RE G-G-GOING TO—

N-N-NOW WHAT?

THEY STUFFED US INTO THE TUBES!

WHAT THA—

THEY'RE PUTTING US IN BIG TEST TUBES!

THEY CARRIED US TO ONE OF THEIR PROJECTILE-LIKE BUILDINGS—

IF I ONLY KNEW!

LOOK! THE METAL IN THOSE BUILDINGS! IT'S ULLIUM! IT'S PLENTIFUL ON THE PLANET MERCURY—OUR CAPTORS ARE MERCURIANS!

THEY'RE GOING TO PRESERVE US OR—OR SOMETHING!

AND CARRY US OFF TO MERCURY AS SPECIMENS!

WE FACED A TERRIBLE FATE!

IT'S ONLY A DEAD CRATER—WHY BOTHER LOOKING THERE FOR THEM?

NO—THEY'D HARDLY LAND IN A CRATER—BUT STILL—

MEANWHILE OUR ROYAL GUARDS, FLASHING ALONG THE WAKE OF THE STORM, SEARCHING FOR US, SIGHTED THE VOLCANO THAT CONCEALED THE MERCURIANS.

DICK CORKIN

(TO BE CONTINUED)

© 1951 DICK CORKIN

52

BUCK ROGERS

2431 A.D.

ALURA AND I, WHO HAD BEEN MADE
MONARCHS OF THE PLANET VENUS, HAD
BEEN CAPTURED BY THE STRANGE
INHABITANTS OF MERCURY. NEAREST
PLANET TO THE SUN—WHO HAD ESTABLISHED
A SECRET BASE ON VENUS, AND WERE
'COLLECTING' STRAY VENUSIANS AS
SPECIMENS TO TAKE HOME TO MERCURY
FOR STUDY.

Buddy O'wring

THE SPACE-LEAPING BUILDING



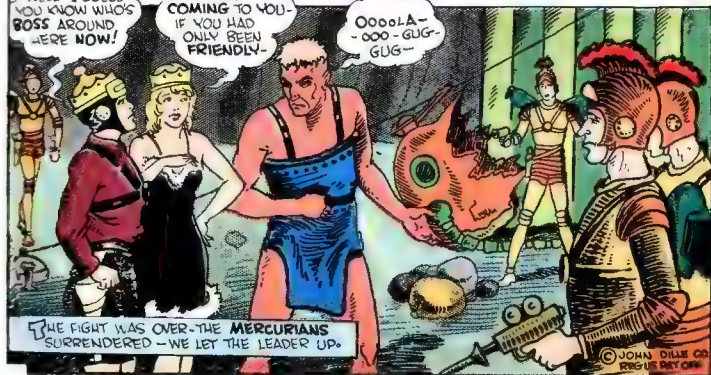
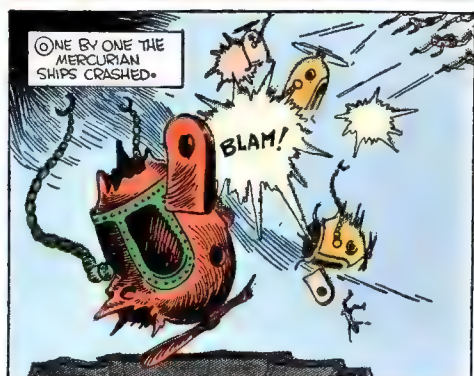
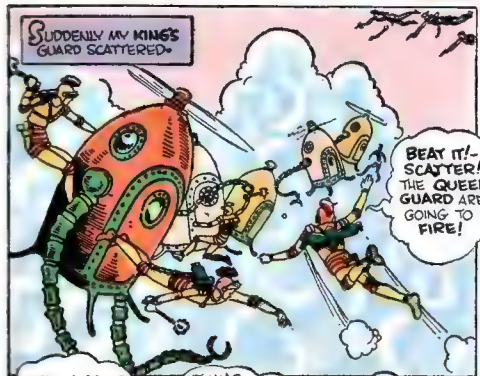
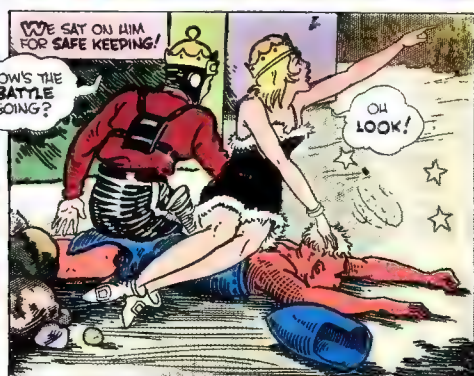
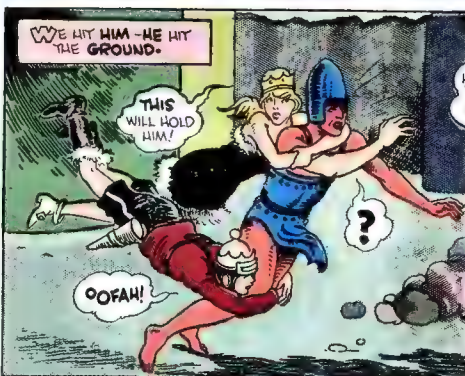
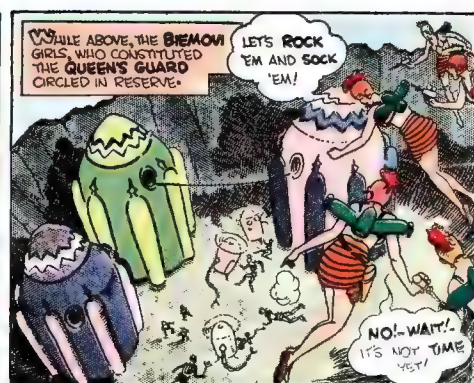
BUCK ROGERS

2431 A.D.



I, BUDDY DEERING OF EARTH, AND ALLURA OF MARS, HAD BEEN MADE MONARCHS OF THE PLANET VENUS— BUT AT THE VERY OUTSET OF OUR REIGN WE HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY RAIDERS FROM THE PLANET MERCURY— BUT OUR ROYAL GUARDS, EQUIPPED WITH FLYING BELTS AND ROCKET PISTOLS, WERE FLASHING TO OUR RESCUE.

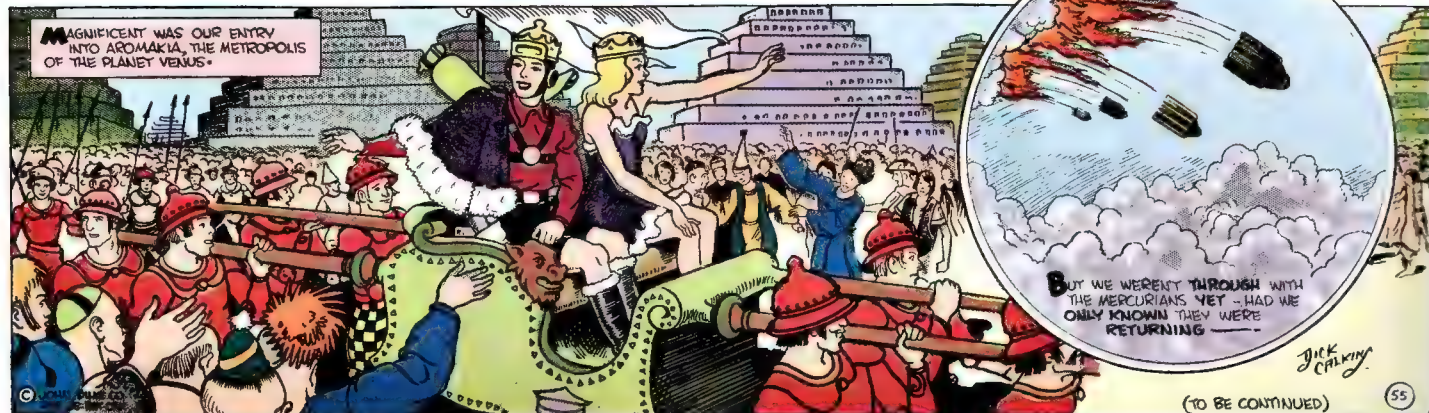
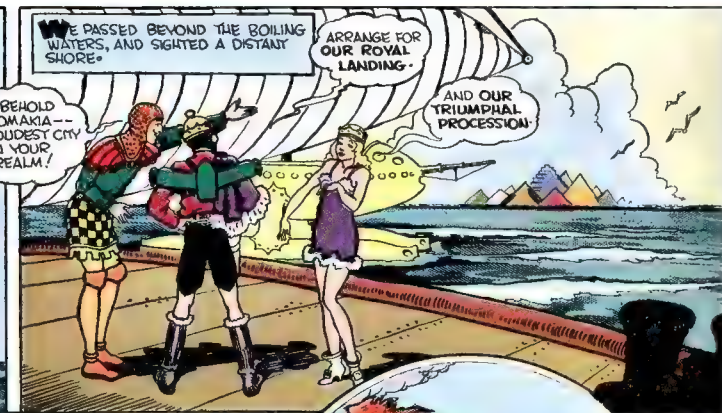
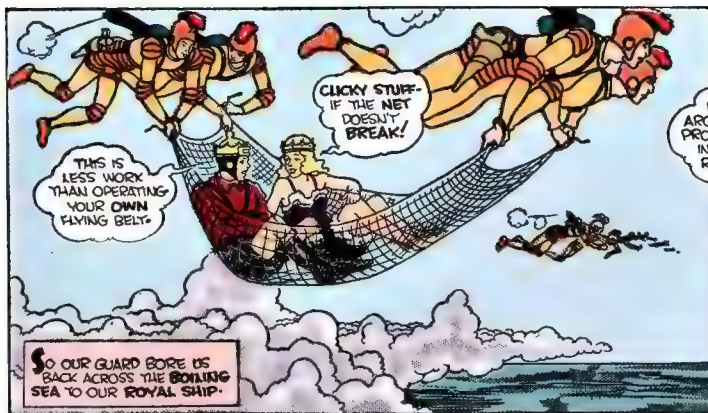
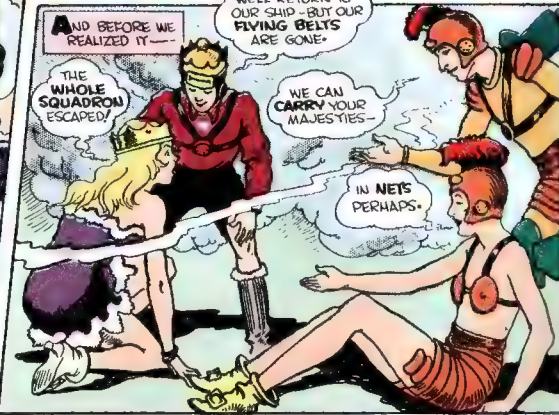
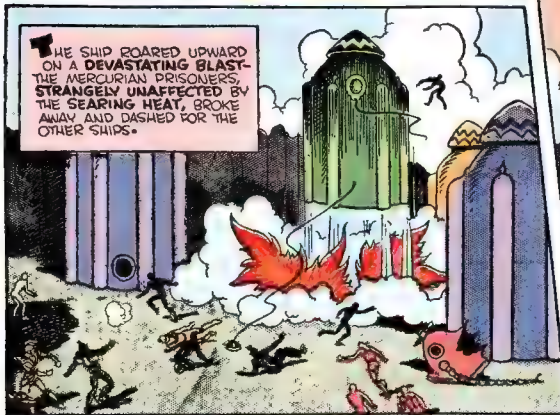
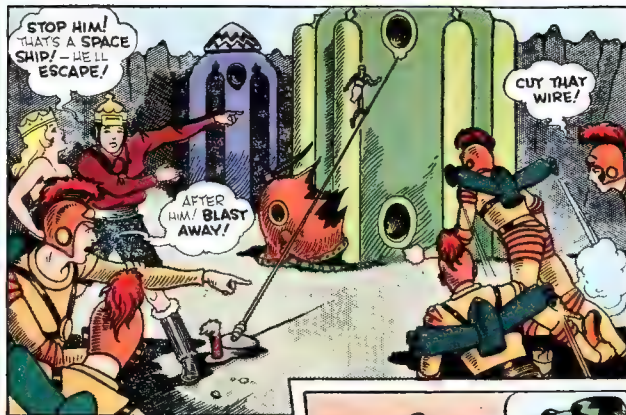
THE BATTLE IN THE AIR



BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

THE MERCURIAN THREAT

MONARCHS OF THE PLANET VENUS, AURA AND I SET FORTH TO TOUR OUR DOMAIN ON THE BOILING EQUATORIAL SEA OF THAT ASTOUNDING PLANET, WE WERE BLOWN FROM OUR ROYAL SHIP BY A GREAT STORM, AND CAPTURED BY A RAIDING EXPEDITION FROM THE PLANET MERCURY - BUT OUR ROYAL GUARDS RESCUED US - THE LEADER OF THE MERCURIANS MADE A BREAK FOR LIBERTY AND WITH THAT STRANGE POWER OF HIS RACE, RAN SWIFTLY UP THE WIRE.



(TO BE CONTINUED)

BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

THE DOOM OF AROMAKIA

AURA OF MARS, AND I, BUDDY DEERING OF EARTH, HAD BEEN MADE MONARCHS OF THE PLANET VENUS—WE HAD BEEN CAPTURED BY AN INTERPLANETARY RAIDING EXPEDITION OF MERCURIANS. BUT OUR ROYAL GUARD DEFEATED THE MERCURIANS AND RESCUED US—SO WE RESUMED OUR JOURNEY TO AROMAKIA, GREATEST OF ALL THE VENUSIAN CITIES—THE AROMAKS WELCOME US WITH ENTHUSIASM AND ENTERTAINED US MAGNIFICENTLY.

Buddy Deering

AURA ENJOYED THE ROYAL SWIMMING POOL, ON TOP OF THE GREAT PYRAMIDAL PALACE.

THIS IS THE LIFE!—I WISH BUDDY HADN'T GONE OFF ON HIS OFFAN OLD INSPECTION TOUR, THOUGH.

IT IS WELL THAT QUEENS SHOULD BASK AND DISPORT THEMSELVES, YOUR MAJESTY—BUT WITH KINGS, IT IS DIFFERENT—THERE ARE RESPONSIBILITIES, AND—

WHAT ARE THOSE FUNNY LITTLE CARS—OR ELEVATORS—RUNNING UP AND DOWN THE SIDES OF THE BUILDINGS?

TEEO, THE RULER OF AROMAKIA WAS SHOWING ME THE CITY.

THE CARS WERE BALANCED—ONE AGAINST THE OTHER—ON CABLES.

AS A CAR REACHES THE TOP IT IS FILLED WITH WATER—

TO MAKE IT HEAVIER THAN THE OTHER ONE BALANCING IT AT THE BOTTOM?

AND AT THE BOTTOM

AN AUTOMATIC LEVER OPENS THE CARS TANK, AND LETS OUT THE WATER!

PRIMITIVE—BUT HOW DO YOU PUMP THE WATER TO THE TOPS OF THE BUILDINGS?

EACH TREAD-MILL WORKS A PUMP—AND THE PUMPS KEEP THE CITY TANKS FILLED.

OH YEAH?—DIDN'T YOU EVER HEAR OF ENGINES? WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SOME FOR YOU, AS OUR ROYAL PRESENT!

AT THE GREAT AROMAKIAN WATER WORKS.

WE STAGED A FLYING BELT EXHIBITION FOR THE AROMAK POPULATION—THE PEOPLE WERE AMAZED!

WHAT KEEPS THEM FROM FALLING?

THEY SAY THEY HAVE A MATERIAL THAT "FALLS" UPWARD!

BUT THOSE BLASTS OF FIRE?

THOSE ARE ROCKET BLASTS—THAT'S HOW THEY PUSH THEMSELVES AROUND!

BUT IN THE PALACE—AFTERWARD—

YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO IMPRISON US?

HAVE A CARE, TEEO!—THAT IS TREASON!

WHAT DO I CARE FOR THE PEOPLE'S WILL?—YOUR ROYAL GUARD IS SCATTERED THROUGH THE CITY—BUT MY GUARD IS HERE!!

I SHOUTED FOR OUR GUARD—BUT IT WAS TEEO'S THUGS WHO CAME!

YOU OOFAS!

YOU'LL SUFFER FOR THIS, TEEO!

TUT-TUT—I THINK NOT—AWAY WITH THEM TO THE DEEP SECRET DUNGEON!

NICE LOOKING MONARCHS WE ARE—BUT OUR GUARDS HUNT FOR US?

TEEO WILL TELL SOME FALSE STORY ABOUT OUR DISAPPEARANCE, I'M AFRAID.

THERE WASN'T A CHANCE TO BREAK OUT—THE DUNGEON WAS FAR BELOW GROUND.

IT WAS AT THIS MOMENT—THOUGH WE DID NOT KNOW IT—THAT THE MERCURIAN SPACE FLEET FLASHED DOWN ON AROMAKIA!

— AND DROPPED THEIR BOMBS OF DOOM.

NONE KNEW WHAT THOSE BOMBS CONTAINED!!

(TO BE CONTINUED)

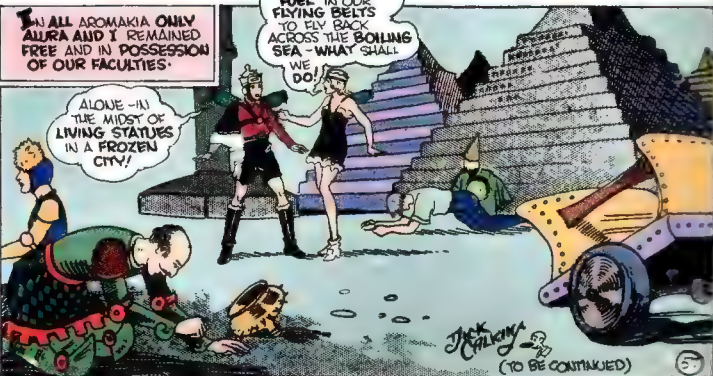
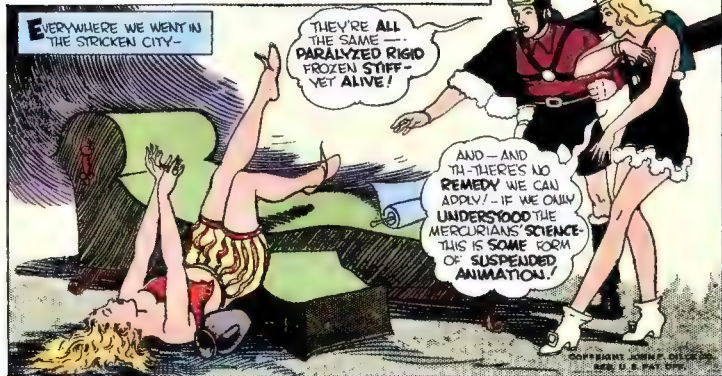
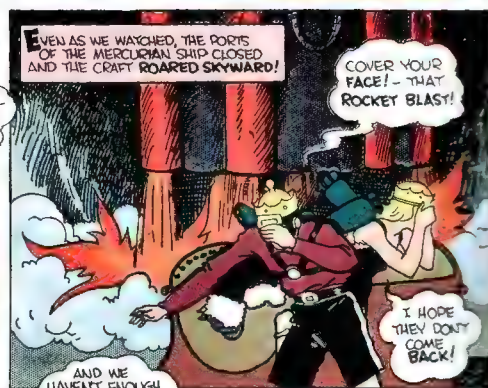
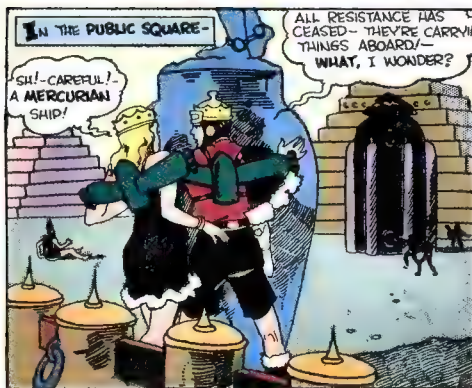
BUCK ROGERS

2431 A.D.



AURA AND X-MONARCHS OF THE PLANET VENUS—AFTER ASTOUNDING ADVENTURES, INCLUDING CAPTURE BY INTERPLANETARY RAIDERS FROM MERCURY, WERE NOW IMPRISONED FAR BELOW GROUND IN THE CITY OF AROMAKIA—FOR TEO, RULER OF THE CITY, JEALOUS OF OUR POWER, HAD TREACHEROUSLY SEIZED US.

THE FROZEN CITY

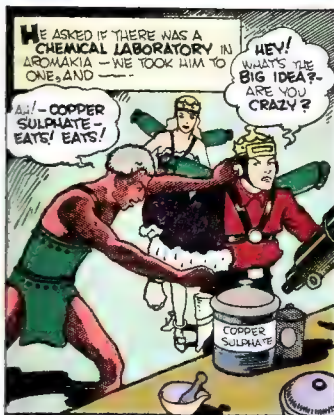
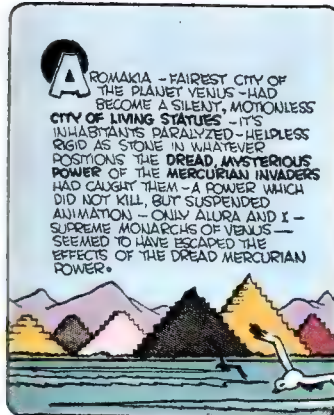


BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

Written by PHIL NOWLAN

THE CITY OF LIVING STATUES

Drawn by DICK CALKINS



BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

By PHIL NOWLAN
AND
DICK CALKINS

THE BATTLE IN SPACE

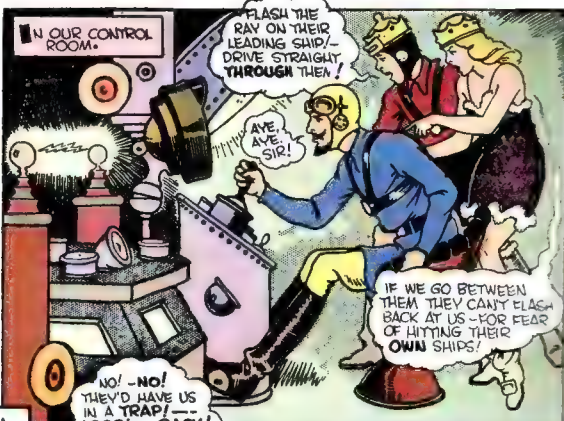
EVER SINCE AURA OF MARS AND I, BUDDY DEERING OF EARTH, HAD LANDED OUR SPACE SHIP ON THE PLANET VENUS, WE HAD HAD ONE AGROUNDING ADVENTURE AFTER ANOTHER. WE HAD BEEN MADE SUPREME MONARCHS OF THE PLANET—WE HAD BATTLED WITH INVADERS FROM THE MYSTERIOUS SUNWARD PLANET, MERCURY—TEMPORARILY WE HAD BEATEN THEM, AND DRIVEN THEM OFF, BUT NOW THEY WERE RETURNING TO THE ATTACK IN THEIR POWERFUL INTERPLANETARY SHIPS—SWIFTLY OUR OWN ROCKET SHIP FLASHED OUT INTO THE VOID OF SPACE TO MEET THEM.



THE MERCURIAN FLEET SPED TOWARD US IN CONE FORMATION.



IN OUR CONTROL ROOM—

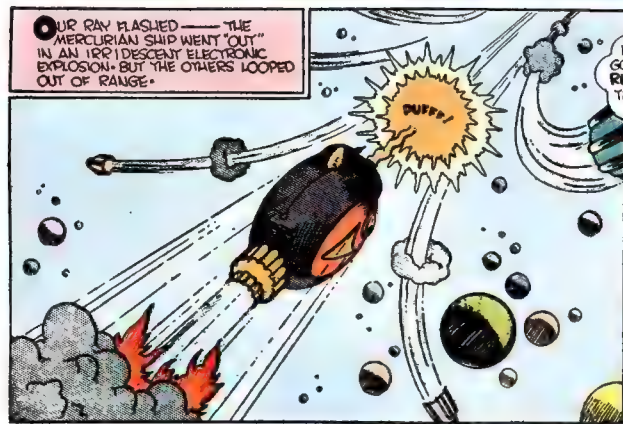


FLASH THE RAY ON THEIR LEADING SHIP!—DRIVE STRAIGHT THROUGH THEM!

IF WE GO BETWEEN THEM THEY CAN'T FLASH BACK AT US—FOR FEAR OF HITTING THEIR OWN SHIPS!

NO!—NO! THEY'D HAVE US IN A TRAP!—LOOP!—BACK! INTO THE CLOUDS OF VENUS!

OUR RAY FLASHED—THE MERCURIAN SHIP WENT "OUT" IN AN IRRADIANT ELECTRONIC EXPLOSION! BUT THE OTHERS LOOPEL OUT OF RANGE.



AS THE ENEMY WITHDREW IN A GREAT CIRCLE FORMATION—

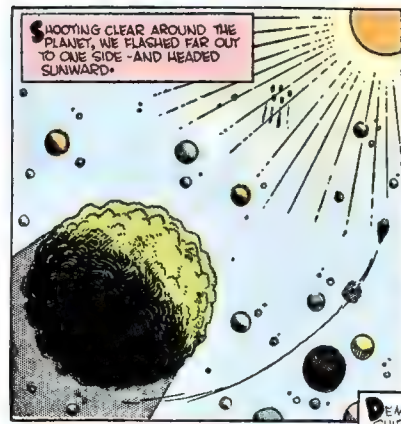
NOW WE'VE GOT 'EM ON THE RUN!—FLASH AFTER THEM!



WE LOOPEL BACK—AROUND THE NIGHT-SHADOW SIDE OF THE PLANET.



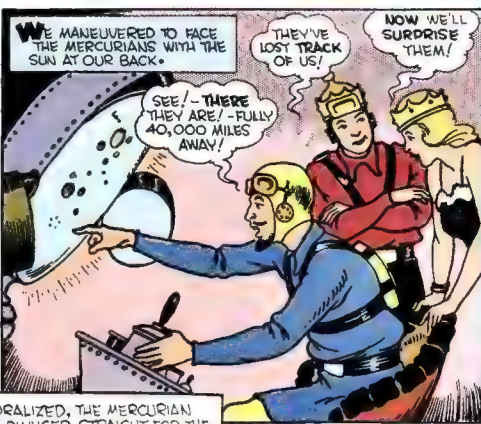
SHOOTING CLEAR AROUND THE PLANET, WE FLASHED FAR OUT TO ONE SIDE—AND HEADED SUNWARD.



WE MANEUVERED TO FACE THE MERCURIANS WITH THE SUN AT OUR BACK.

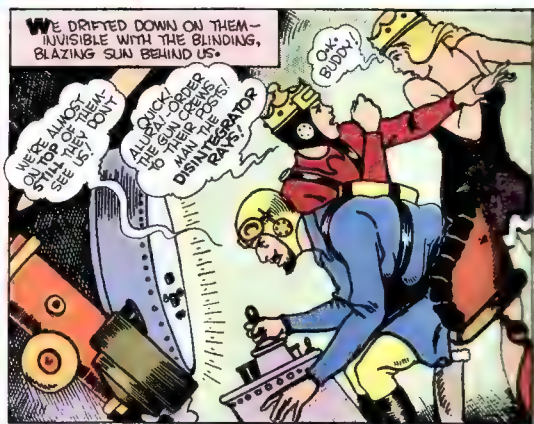
THEY'VE LOST TRACK OF US!

NOW WE'LL SURPRISE THEM!



SEE!—THERE THEY ARE!—FULLY 40,000 MILES AWAY!

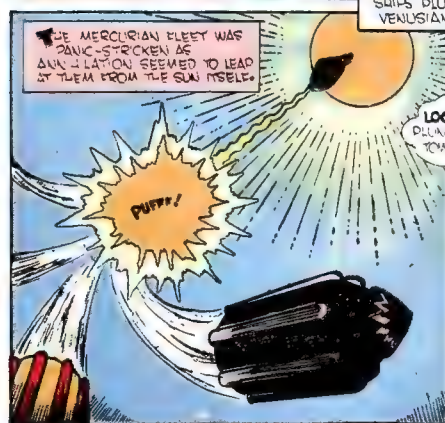
WE DRIFTED DOWN ON THEM—INVISIBLE TO THE BLINDING, BLAZING SUN BEHIND US.



ALL RIGHT! ORDER THE SHIP TO MAIN THE DISINTEGRATOR RAY!

OK, BUDDY!

DEMORALIZED, THE MERCURIAN SHIPS PLUNGED STRAIGHT FOR THE VENUSIAN ATMOSPHERE.



THE MERCURIAN FLEET WAS PANIC-STROKEN AS AURORA SEEMED TO LEAD BY THEM FROM THE SUN ITSELF.

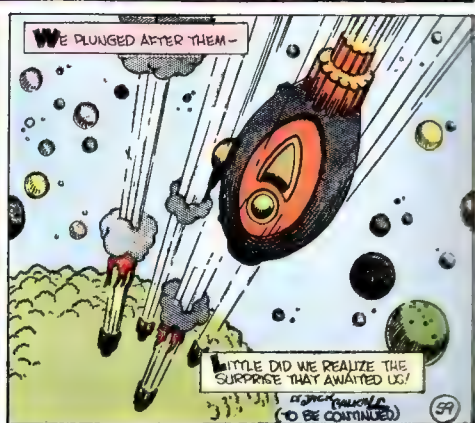
LOOK!—THEY'RE PLUNGING STRAIGHT TOWARD VENUS!

DOES THAT MEAN SURRENDER?

OR ARE THEY TRYING TO ESCAPE?



WE PLUNGED AFTER THEM—



WHY DID WE REALIZE THE SURPRISE THAT AWAITED US!

(TO BE CONTINUED)

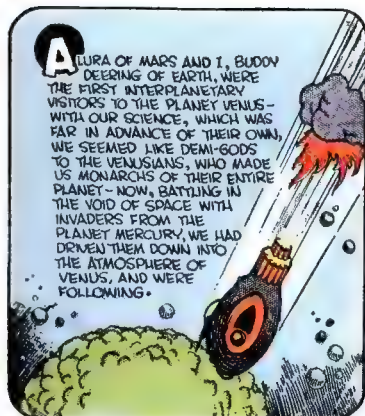
STORY BY PHIL NOWLAN
ART BY DICK CALKINS
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

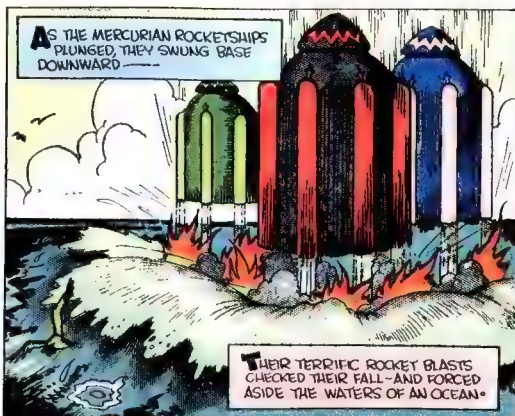
Written by - PHIL NOWLAN

THE CAVES OF FIRE

Drawn by - DICK CALKINS



AURORA OF MARS AND I, BUDDY, SEEING OF EARTH, WERE THE FIRST INTERPLANETARY VISITORS TO THE PLANET VENUS—WITH OUR SCIENCE, WHICH WAS FAR IN ADVANCE OF THEIR OWN, WE SEEMED LIKE DEMI-GODS TO THE VENUSIANS, WHO MADE US MONARCHS OF THEIR ENTIRE PLANET—NOW, BATTLING IN THE VOID OF SPACE WITH INVADERS FROM THE PLANET MERCURY, WE HAD DRIVEN THEM DOWN INTO THE ATMOSPHERE OF VENUS, AND WERE FOLLOWING.



AS THE MERCURIAN ROCKETSHIPS PLUNGED THEY SWUNG BASE DOWNWARD—

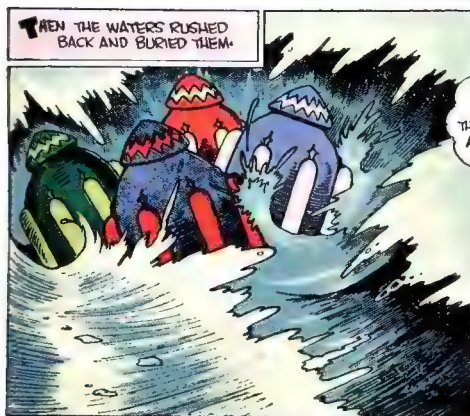
THEIR TERRIFIC ROCKET BLASTS CHECKED THEIR FALL—AND FORCED ASIDE THE WATERS OF AN OCEAN.



SO POWERFUL WERE THEIR BLASTS THAT THEY LANDED ON THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN—

SUDDENLY—TO OUR AMAZEMENT AND ALARM—SHOOTING UP FROM THE DEPTHS—

THEN THEY WEREN'T DROWNED!



THEN THE WATERS RUSHED BACK AND BURIED THEM.



A FEW MOMENTS LATER WE WERE CRUISING OVER THE SPOT.

BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE MERCURIANS ANYWHERE!

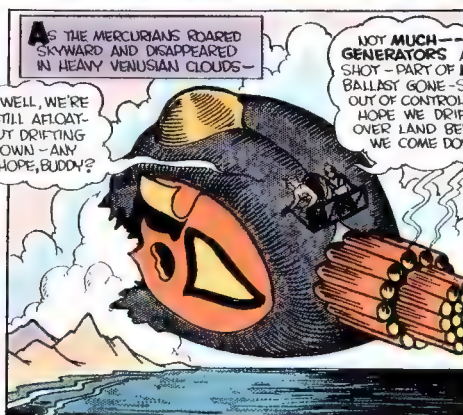
THAT TURMOIL IN THE OCEAN BELOW—DID THEY PLUNGE IN THERE?



QUICK!—INSIDE!—THE MERCURIAN FLEET!



IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO AVOID THEM!



AS THE MERCURIANS ROARED SKYWARD AND DISAPPEARED IN HEAVY VENUSIAN CLOUDS—

WELL, WE'RE STILL AFLOAT—BUT DRIFTING DOWN—ANY HOPE, BUDDY?

NOT MUCH—GENERATORS ALL SHOT—PART OF LIFT BALLAST GONE—SHIP OUT OF CONTROL—HOPE WE DRIFT OVER LAND BEFORE WE COME DOWN!



WE DRIFTED DOWN OVER A PART OF THE PLANET WE HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE.

OH BUDDY!—LOOK!—WE'RE DRIFTING STRAIGHT INTO A GREAT CAVERN—IT'S SUCKING IN AIR LIKE A WINDSTORM!

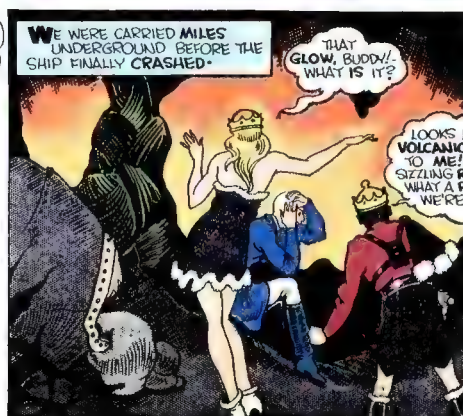


SUDDENLY THE TERRIFIC AIR CURRENT SEIZED US—TORE AT US—HURLED US HEADLONG INTO THE BLACK CAVERN—

HOLD TIGHT!

HELP!—HELP!

GOOD NIGHT!—WE COULDN'T FORCE OUR WAY BACK AGAINST THAT WIND IF WE TRIED!



WE WERE CARRIED MILES UNDERGROUND BEFORE THE SHIP FINALLY CRASHED.

THAT GLOW, BUDDY!—WHAT IS IT?

LOOKS LIKE VOLCANIC FIRE TO ME!—SIZZLING ROCKETS!—WHAT A PICKLE WE'RE IN!



WITHOUT WARNING WE WERE CONFRONTED BY STRANGE LITTLE FIGURES—NOT HALF OUR HEIGHT—AND ENCASED IN METAL SUITS!

WHA—WHAT THE—

BACK!—BUDDY!—THEY D-D-DON'T LOOK F-F-F-FRIENDLY!

HEH!—HEH!—WHO ARE YOU?

BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

OUT OF THE GROUND

WE HAD DRIVEN THE INVADING MERCURIANS FOREVER FROM THE PLANET VENUS, OF WHICH ALURA OF MARS, AND I, BUDDY DEERING OF EARTH HAD BEEN MADE REIGNING MONARCHS—BUT OUR ROCKET-SHIP WAS A WRECK, AND SEIZED IN THE GRASP OF A TERRIBLE WIND. IT HAD BEEN HURLED FAR UNDERGROUND THROUGH A SERIES OF CAVES—NOW WE FACED THE STRANGE DENIZENS OF THIS SUBTERRANEAN WORLD—

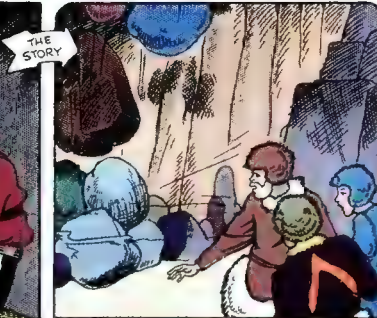


WHEN THEY TOOK OFF THEIR METAL SUITS, WHICH WERE INSULATED TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST VOLCANIC FIRE, THE LITTLE FOLK WERE NOT BAD LOOKING—A GIRL NAMED ULIA WAS APPOINTED TO STUDY OUR LANGUAGE.

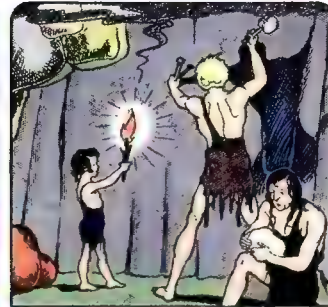


I SHALL TELL YOU THE STORY OF MY PEOPLE—ONCE UPON A TIME—

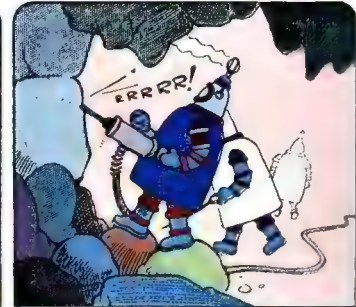
THE STORY



UNTOLD CENTURIES BEFORE, A PARTY OF VENUSIANS HAD BEEN TRAPPED IN A GREAT CAVE NEAR THE NORTH POLE.



THROUGH THE AGES THAT FOLLOWED—DEPRIVED OF SUNLIGHT AND OUTSIDE AIR—THEY BECAME SMALL OF STATURE—AND WEAK—BUT ALWAYS THEY TRIED TO FIGHT THEIR WAY BACK TO THE SURFACE.



ULTIMATELY THEY DEVELOPED GREAT SKILL AS METAL WORKERS—AND WERE CUTTING THEIR WAY UPWARD—MORE RAPIDLY THROUGH THE UNBELIEVABLY HARD ROCK, USING VOLCANIC HEAT FOR POWER.



BUT WHY CHAIN US UP?—WE DON'T WANT TO STOP YOU FROM COMING OUT!

WE'RE TAKING NO CHANCES! THE OUTSIDE WORLD MAY BE CROWDED AND WE'LL HAVE TO FIGHT!

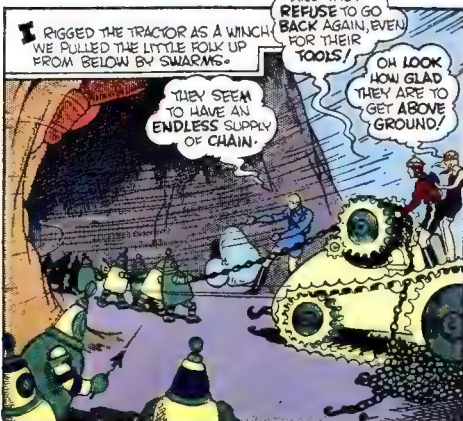
NIX NIX! IT'S NOT CROWDED AT ALL! LET US BE YOUR KING AND QUEEN TOO—AND I'LL GET YOU OUT OF HERE IN A JIFFY!

ULIA WAS LITTLE BUT SCRAPPY!

AND THEY REFUSE TO GO BACK AGAIN, EVEN FOR THEIR TOOLS!

OH LOOK HOW GLAD THEY ARE TO GET ABOVE GROUND!

THEY SEEM TO HAVE AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF CHAIN.



THE LITTLE FOLK RELEASED US FROM OUR CHAINS—I SHOWED THEM HOW TO BUILD A POWERFUL TRACTOR.

WHY TO HOLD IT DOWN, OF COURSE.

SEE!—IT HAS REVERSED PLANES ON TOP!

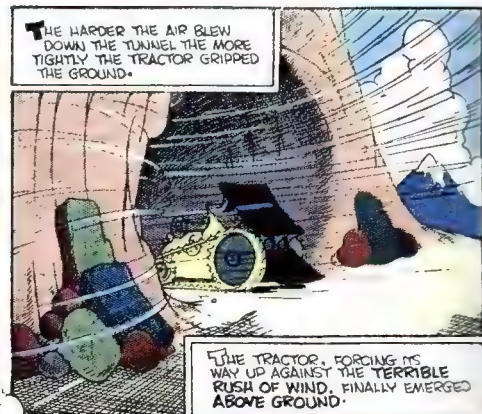
WHAT FOR?

SO ALURA AND I GAINED THOUSANDS OF NEW SUBJECTS, AND LED A GREAT MIGRATION OF THE LITTLE FOLK SOUTHWARD.

HEY! HEY!—THE MORE YOU GET THE MORE YOU WANT!



WE HAVE MADE YOU OUR RULERS—YOU HAVE FULFILLED OUR DREAM OF AGES—NOW LEAD US TO MORE FERTILE, PLEASANT LANDS!



THE HARDER THE AIR BLEW DOWN—THE MORE TIGHTLY THE TRACTOR GRIPPED THE GROUND.

THE TRACTOR, FORCING ITS WAY UP AGAINST THE TERRIBLE RUSH OF WIND, FINALLY EMERGED ABOVE GROUND.



BUT SUDDENLY—OVER THE HILLS—

FLYING DRAGONS!

WITHOUT RIDERS!

WILD—AND FEROCIOUS—DEFEND YOURSELVES!

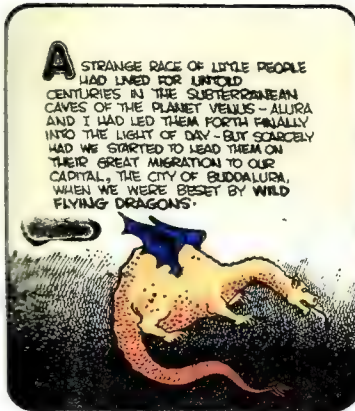
(TO BE CONTINUED)

BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

Written by - PHIL NOWLAN

FIGHTING WILD DRAGONS

Drawn by - DICK CALKINS



A STRANGE RACE OF LITTLE PEOPLE HAD LIVED FOR UNTOLD CENTURIES IN THE SUBTERRANEAN CAVES OF THE PLANET VENUS - ALURA AND I HAD LED THEM FORTH FINALLY INTO THE LIGHT OF DAY - BUT SCARCELY HAD WE STARTED TO LEAD THEM ON THEIR GREAT MIGRATION TO OUR CAPITAL, THE CITY OF BUDDALUR, WHEN WE WERE BESET BY WILD FLYING DRAGONS.



QUICKLY THE LITTLE FOLK DONNED THEIR METAL ARMOR.

BUT ULIA IN COMMAND

SURE! - SHE'S USED TO LEADING THEM! - GO TO IT, ULIA!

ATTENTION, LITTLE FOLK! DEFENSE FORMATION, QUICK!



IT LOOKS LIKE A BAD DAY FOR THE DRAGON HORDE.

YEAH - A MASS OF METAL-BREASTLING WITH SPEARS!

SEE HOW COMPACT THEIR FORMATION IS!



BUT THE FLYING DRAGONS SCATTERED THE LITTLE FOLK LIKE TEN-PINS!

OH OH! - I DIDN'T THINK THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

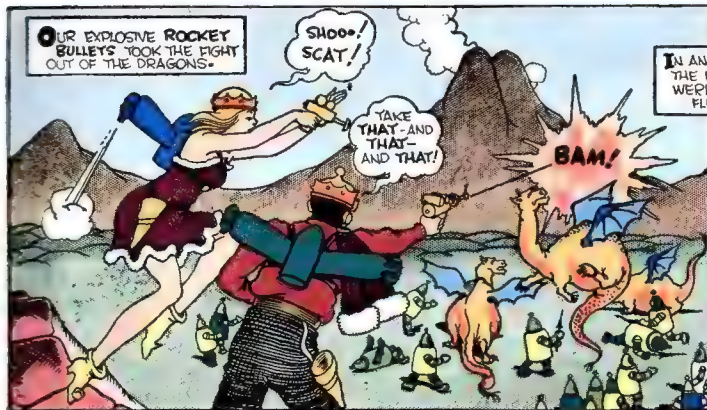
THEY'RE BRAVE - BUT TOO WEAK TO STAND UP TO DRAGONS - WE'LL HAVE TO GET INTO IT ALURA!



SO INTO IT WE WENT!

ROCKET PISTOLS READY!

MAKE EVERY SHOT COUNT!



OUR EXPLOSIVE ROCKET BULLETS TOOK THE FIGHT OUT OF THE DRAGONS.

SHOO! SCAT!

TAKE THAT - AND THAT - AND THAT!

BAM!

IN AN INSTANT THE DRAGONS WERE IN FULL FLIGHT.



JUST IN TIME! - MY ROCKET PISTOL MAGAZINE IS EMPTY!

BUT YOU DID SOME CLICKY SHOOTING, BUDDY.

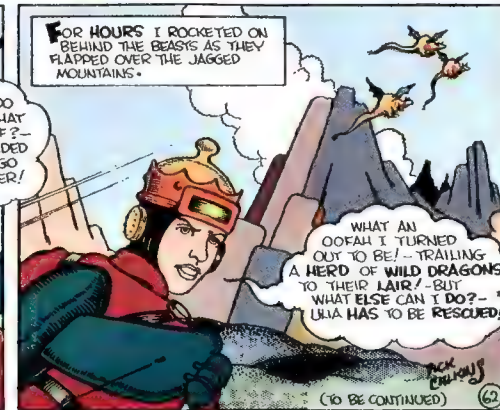


BUT ONE OF THE VICIOUS BEASTS CLUTCHED A VICTIM AS HE FLEW.

HELP! HELP!

WHERE DO YOU GET THAT WE STUFF? - YOU'RE NEEDED HERE - I'LL GO RESCUE HER!

IT'S ULIA! WE MUST RESCUE HER BUDDY!



FOR HOURS I ROCKETED ON BEHIND THE BEASTS AS THEY FLAPPED OVER THE JAGGED MOUNTAINS.

WHAT AN OOFAH I TURNED OUT TO BE! - TRAILING A HERD OF WILD DRAGONS TO THEIR LAIR! - BUT WHAT ELSE CAN I DO? - ULIA HAS TO BE RESCUED!

A map of the planet Venus showing the location of the dragons. The map is labeled 'VENUS' and shows the location of the dragons in the 'BOILING SEA, AROMAKIA, CAVE OF THE WINDS, THE FLYING DRAGON COUNTRY, AND MANY OTHER STRANGE AND INTERESTING PLACES.'

NEWS FLASH!

- PLANET VENUS -

IN RESPONSE TO THE OVERWHELMING DEMAND FROM OUR FRIENDS ON EARTH, WE HAVE SENT OUT A GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY, AND AT PRESENT THE BEST MINDS OF VENUS ARE HARD AT WORK DRAWING UP A MAP

OF THIS PLANET - IT WILL BE PRINTED IN BLACK AND WHITE AND YOU CAN COLOR IT YOURSELVES - JUST WRITE TO US IN CARE OF THIS PAPER ENCLOSED 44 IN STAMPS TO COVER MAILING COSTS - WRITE OR PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS PLAINLY - THEN YOU WILL RECEIVE A LARGE MAP OF VENUS, SHOWING THE POSITION OF THE BOILING SEA, AROMAKIA, CAVE OF THE WINDS, THE FLYING DRAGON COUNTRY, AND MANY OTHER STRANGE AND INTERESTING PLACES - YOUR FRIENDS - Alura and Budd

BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

Written by ~ PHIL NOWLAN

HIGH TREASON

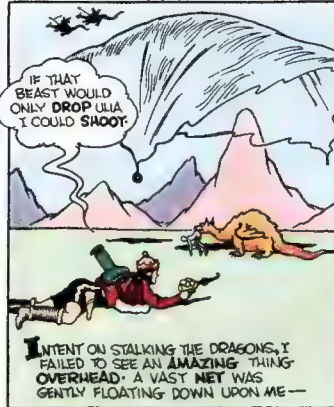
Drawn by ~ DICK CALKINS

ALLURA OF MARS, AND I, BUDDY DEERING OF EARTH, NOW SUPREME MONARCHS OF THE PLANET VENUS, HAD RESCUED THE LITTLE FOLK FROM THE SUBTERRANEAN CAVES IN WHICH THEIR RACE HAD BEEN IMPRISONED FOR CENTURIES, AND WERE LEADING THEM OVERLAND TO OUR CAPITAL BUDDALURA. WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED BY A HORDE OF WILD FLYING DRAGONS—WE BEAT THE DRAGONS OFF, BUT ONE OF THEM CARRIED AWAY ULIA, LEADER OF THE LITTLE FOLK—LEAVING AURA WITH OUR CARAVAN. I ROCKETED AFTER THE DRAGONS TO RESCUE ULIA.

FOR HOURS I FOLLOWED—THEN THEY SETTLED DOWN ON A BARE, FLAT PLAIN.



I'LL LAND TOO, AND SNEAK UP ON 'EM ON THE GROUND—THOSE BIG HOLES MUST BE THEIR NESTS—OR DENS—OR—



IF THAT BEAST WOULD ONLY DROP ULIA I COULD SHOOT.

INTENT ON STALKING THE DRAGONS, I FAILED TO SEE AN AMAZING THING OVERHEAD—A VAST NET WAS GENTLY FLOATING DOWN UPON ME—



THE HUGE TRANSPARENT SHEET SETTLED.

THAT WAS A GOOD CAST—WE'LL GET A DOZEN WILD DRAGONS OUT OF THIS!

LET THEM STRUGGLE A FEW MINUTES AND THEY'LL BE HOPELESSLY ENTANGLED.

HEY!—WHAT'S THIS?—IT'S AS LIGHT AS A SPIDER WEB—BUT SO STRONG—AND TOUGH I CAN'T TEAR IT!

WHILE UNDERNEATH THE VAST NET—



AS I STRUGGLED VAINLY I HAD A BRIGHT IDEA.



IF I LOAD A ROCKET INTO MY PISTOL BACKWARD, THE BLAST WILL ACT LIKE A TORCH—MAYBE I CAN BURN MY WAY LOOSE!

AND A FEW SECONDS LATER

DRAGON RIDERS!—THIS IS A LUCKY BREAK—THEY'RE LOYAL SUBJECTS!



HULLO!—LOOK WHAT WE'VE CAUGHT IN OUR NET!

WH-WHY IT LOOKS LIKE KING BUDDY! IT IS KING BUDDY!

I FLEW WITH THEM TO WHERE THE WILD DRAGONS WERE STRUGGLING.

FIRST WE KNOCK THE BEAST COLD!



THERE!—THAT ONE UNDER THERE!—HE'S GOT THE GIRL!—WE MUST RESCUE HER!

I MELTED ANOTHER HOLE IN THE FABRIC WITH MY ROCKET PISTOL, AND THEN—



CAREFUL! SHE'S FAINTED!

WHY, SHE'S ONLY HALF-SIZE!

YEP!—THE LITTLE FOLK ARE ALL LIKE THAT!

I DEMAND THAT GORRO, THE CHIEF OF THE CLAN, BE BROUGHT TO US AT ONCE.



AND THIS LITTLE GIRL—SHE'S A CUTE LITTLE TRICK—IS LEADER OF THE WHOLE RACE OF LITTLE FOLK?

GORRO!—WHAT A SWEET NAME!—WHAT A WONDERFUL MAN!

—AND SO GORRO, I SHALL ACCEPT YOUR ALLEGIANCE, AND YOUR AID IN RETURNING TO MY CORTAGE.

GORRO'S CASTLE WAS A WONDERFUL AFFAIR—STEEL BARS TAKING THE PLACE OF WALLS, FOR THE DRAGON RIDERS WERE A HARDY RACE AND PREFERRED THE OPEN AIR.



WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?—WHY ARE YOU PUTTING ME IN HERE?—I DEMAND!

MY CLAN NEVER ACKNOWLEDGED YOUR KINGSHIP OVER THE PLANET! YOU ARE MY PRISONER!—ULIA SHALL BE MY BRIDE—HER RACE SHALL JOIN MY CLAN, AND TOGETHER WE SHALL CONQUER THE PLANET.

I'M SORRY BUDDY—I MAY BE LITTLE, BUT I HAVE BIG IDEAS—AND I'M BACKING GORRO TO WIN! GORRO AND I, NOT YOU AND AURA, SHALL RULE!

TO MAKE MY INDIGNITY COMPLETE—GORRO PLACED A GIRL ON GUARD OVER ME.



OH YEAH?—AND WHO ARE YOU?

I'M THE NEW PRINCESS—I'M LALILLA, GORRO'S NIECE—DON'T YOU THINK I'M PRETTY?

THE NEXT THING I KNEW, LALILLA WAS IN THE CAGE WITH ME.



SA!—I LIKE YOU!—AND WHAT'S MORE I'M NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY LITTLE HALF-MEASURE AUNT LIE ULIA MADE QUEEN TO BOSS ME AROUND—I CAN GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

HUH?—WH-WHAT? HOW?

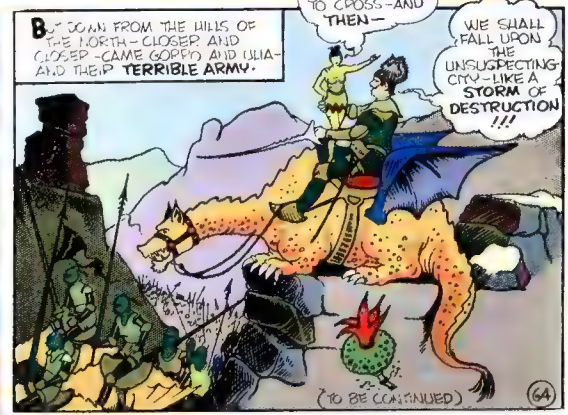
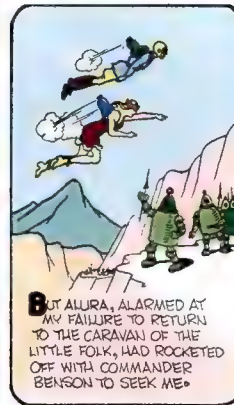
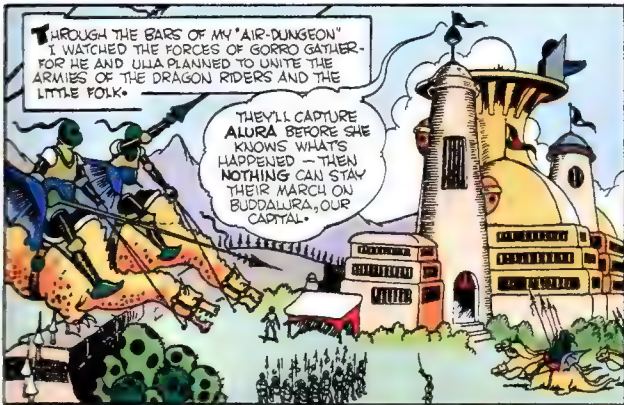
BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

Written by ~ PHIL NOWLAN

REBELLION SEEMS TRIUMPHANT

Drawn by ~ DICK CALKINS

EAR NORTH - IN THE LAND OF THE DRAGON RIDERS ON THE PLANET VENUS - AURA OF MARS, AND I, BUDDY DEERING OF EARTH - WHO HAD BEEN MADE SUPREME MONARCHS OF THIS STRANGE WORLD, FACED DISASTER - WE HAD RESCUED A RACE OF LITTLE FOLK FROM THE SUB-TERRANEAN CAVES OF THE PLANET, BUT THEIR LEADER TREACHEROUSLY HAD CAST HER LOT WITH A RENEGADE CHIEFTAN OF DRAGON RIDERS - TOGETHER THEY PLOTTED TO OVERTHROW OUR KINGDOM.

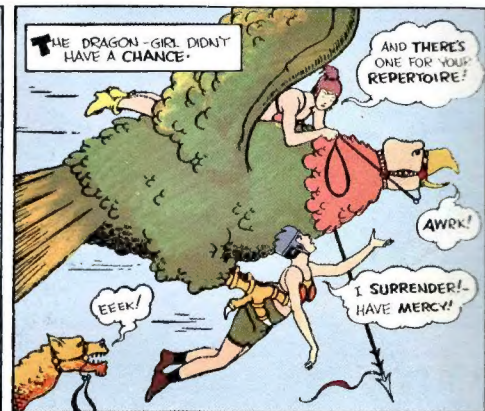
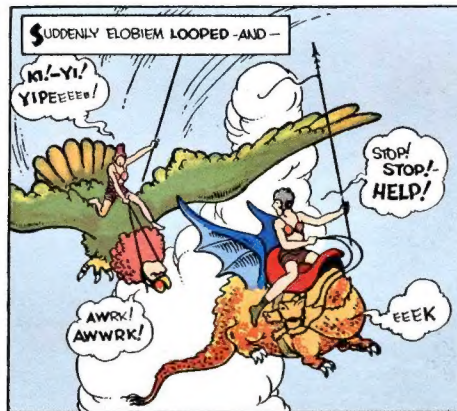
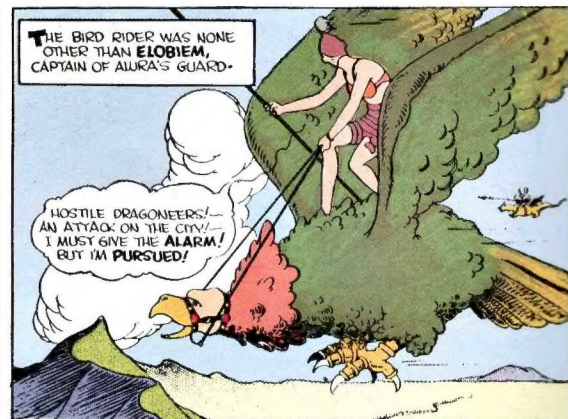
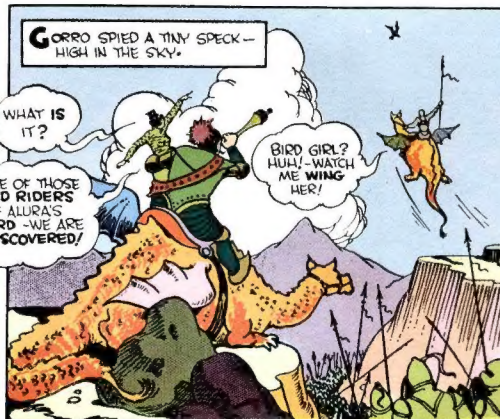
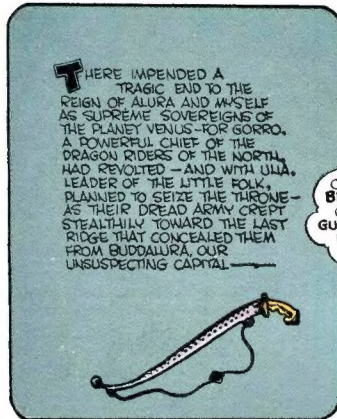


BUCK ROGERS 2431 AD

Written by - PHIL NOWLAN

FATE IN BALANCE

Drawn by - DICK CALKINS



Buck Rogers

Written by
PHIL NOWLAN
CREATED

2431 A.D.

THE FATE OF THE PLANET VENUS HUNG IN THE BALANCE—GORRO, REBEL LEADER OF DRAGON FLIERS, AND ULIA, CHIEFTAINESS OF THE LITTLE FOLK, WERE

IN REBELT AGAINST THE REIGN OF ALLURA AND MYSELF AS SUPREME MONARCHS OF THIS STRANGE WORLD—AS THEIR ARMY WAS ABOUT TO ATTACK BUDDALURA, OUR CAPITAL, WE ATTEMPTED TO CAPTURE GORRO AND ULIA, AND THUS DEPRIVE THE REBELS OF LEADERSHIP.

Buddy Derring

THE KING FALLS

ALURA AND I WHISKED GORRO OFF HIS DRAGON—BUT BENSON MISSED ULIA.

HOLD ON TO HIM TIGHT!

I MISSED HER!

WHOOF! HE'S HEAVY WITH ALL THIS ARMOR ON.

LOOK!—A WHOLE SWARM OF DRAGON RIDERS!

BETWEEN US AND OUR CITY! WE'LL HAVE TO CIRCLE AND FLEE!

ALL ACT AS REAR GUARD—YOU GET AWAY WITH THE PRISONER!

BUY WE WERE SLOW IN GETTING STARTED—

FULL BLAST, ALURA—FULL BLAST! THEY'RE GAINING!

THIS OOFAH IS SO HEAVY, BUDDY!—WE CAN'T GET UP SPEED!

MAYBE I CAN HOLD THEM BACK—IT'S THE ONLY THING TO DO!

BENSON MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE!—BEFORE WE KNEW IT—

HE'S SACRIFICING HIMSELF TO HOLD THEM BACK!—WE MUST RESCUE HIM!

IT'S NO USE!—THEY'VE GOT HIM ALREADY!

WHY ARE WE CLIMBING?

TO GET UP INTO THIS AIR WHERE THOSE DRAGONS CAN'T FOLLOW—THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH SUPPORT FOR THEIR WINGS!

THEY CAN'T SCARE ME!—THEY DON'T DARE DROP ME!

UP-UP-UP WE SHOT TO HIGHER ALTITUDES.

WE MUST HAVE REACHED A HEIGHT OF SIX OR SEVEN MILES.

OOOF!—I CAN SCARCELY BREATHE!—AND THERE'S NOTHING BUT CLOUDS BELOW!

NOW GORRO!—YOU REBEL!—DO YOU SURRENDER?—WILL YOU CALL OFF YOUR REVOLUTION IF WE LET YOU DOWN?

NEVER!

SO WE TOOK GORRO STILL HIGHER.

THIS IS TOO HIGH, BUDDY!—LET'S GO DOWN WHERE THE B-BREATHING IS EASIER!

SUPPOSE I DROP YOU, GORRO.

HA HA!—YOU DON'T DARE!—MY DRAGON RIDERS HAVE BEGUN THE ATTACK ON YOUR CITY—IF YOU DROP ME, THERE'LL BE NO ONE TO CALL THEM OFF!

AT THIS MOMENT SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED!—WE PLUNGED DOWNWARD!

OOF!—WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S YOUR FLYING BELT—THE STRAPS BROKE—YOU'VE LOST IT!

FASTER AND FASTER—WE FELL!

LET GO OF US ALURA!—YOU CAN'T HOLD US UP!—THERE'S NO SENSE IN YOU CRASHING TOO!

THIS IS BEGINNING TO LOOK SERIOUS!

NO NO!—THERE MUST BE SOMETHING WE CAN DO!

AT LAST I BROKE ALLURA'S HOLD, AND—

BACK!—BACK TO BUDDALURA!—SAVE THE CITY FROM THE REBELS!

OH BUDDY! BUDDY!

HEY!—WHAT WAS—WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE NOW!

DOWN-DOWN! WE SEEMED TO PLUNGE ENDLESSLY!

TO BE CONTINUED

Buck Rogers

by-
PHIL NOWLAN
AND
DICK CALKINS

2431 A.D.

BUDDLALURA, AND WHO WANTED TO DETHRONE US — WE CAPTURED GORRO, RENEGADE LEADER OF THE DRAGON RIDERS BUT THE STRAPS OF MY FLYING BELT BROKE, AND THOUGH ALURA TRIED DESPERATELY TO SAVE US, WE WERE PLUNGING DOWN — DOWN — MILE AFTER MILE. *Buddy Deering*

BELOW US BLOWED A GREAT CLOUD.

THERE'S HARD-HARD GROUND BENEATH IT!

LOOKS LIKE A GREAT BIG FEATHER BED—IF IT ONLY WAS!

IN A FLASH MY WHOLE LIFE PASSED IN REVIEW.

THE RACE FOR THE CITY

I REMEMBERED MY HAPPY CHILDHOOD ON EARTH—HOW I WENT TO MARS, AND MET ALURA—HOW TOGETHER WE WENT TO PLUTO—THEN TO VENUS, WHOSE INHABITANTS HAD ACCLAIMED US KING AND QUEEN—HOW WE HAD BEATEN OFF THE DREADFUL MECLOVIAN—AND RELEASED FROM THEIR UNDERGROUND CAVERNS THE LITTLE FOLK OF VENUS, ONLY TO HAVE THEM JOIN THE DRAGON RIDERS OF THE NORTH IN REVOLT AGAINST US.

BUT AT THIS MOMENT—FAR BELOW—ELOBIEM, CAPTAIN OF THE QUEEN'S GUARD, WAS SCOUTING OVER THE BATTLE LINE WITH ONE OF HER GUARDGIRLS.

LOOK! CAPTAIN—FALLING OUT OF THE CLOUD UP THERE!

WHY IT'S KING BUDDY!—AND SOMEONE ELSE—WE MUST SAVE THEM!

THE GIRLS EXECUTED A DARING MANEUVER.

WE'RE DIRECTLY BENEATH THEM!

FOLD WINGS AND PLUNGE! SO THEY WON'T HIT US TOO HARD!

EASY NOW, YOUR MAJESTY! GRAB HIS TAIL FEATHERS!

SAVED!

WELL, IF IT ISN'T GORRO!—THE BIG DRAGON AND ARMOR MAN FROM THE NORTH!

— AND THEN —

WHOOOPS! HOLD ON TIGHT!

OOOPH! I HOPE HIS FEATHERS ARE STUCK IN WELL!

YOU'RE MY PRISONER!

FOR LIFE—IF YOU'LL HAVE ME!

THE GREAT WINGS OF THE EAGLES CHECKED OUR FALL JUST IN TIME.

THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL!—WE MIGHT HAVE FALLEN IN THE MIDDLE OF —

YOU JUST TRY TO JUMP OFF HERE AND I'LL WHAM YOU ONE!

WHY SHOULD I WANT TO JUMP OFF—BEAUTIFUL?

THE REBELS' GENERAL HEADQUARTERS!

BELOW US LALLILA, GORRO'S NIECE, AND ULIA, LEADER OF THE LITTLE FOLK, LEAPED INTO ACTION.

WHY IT'S KING BUDDY!—I WANT HIM, AND I'M GOING TO GET HIM—COME ON ULIA—AFTER THEM!

AND MY GORRO—WITH THAT BRAZEN EAGLE GIRL—AND HE SEEMS TO BE ENJOYING IT!—I'LL FIX HIM!

BY THIS TIME ALURA HAD ROCKETED DOWN TO US.

WHIP UP THOSE EAGLES! WE'RE PURSUED!!

A COUPLE OF DRAGONEERS HUH?

WHO ARE YOUR FRIENDS FOLLOWING US?

IT'S LALLILA AND ULIA—I DON'T WANT TO SEE EITHER OF THEM—NOT NOW—CAN'T YOU FLY FASTER!

SWIFTLY OUR PURSUERS DREW UP ON US—AND GAINED ALTITUDE.

FASTER—FASTER!—THEY'RE GAINING!

THEY'RE COMING UP FAST!

WE'RE STILL SOME DISTANCE FROM THE CITY!

CAN WE MAKE IT?

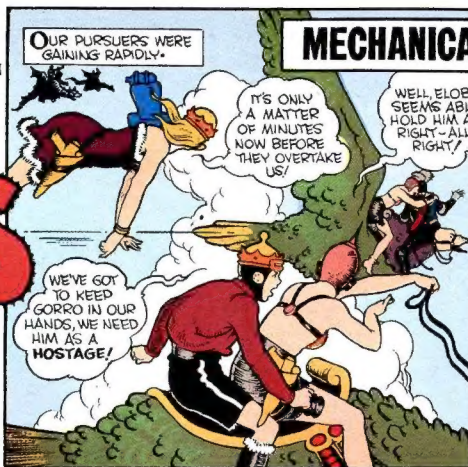
Buck Rogers

by PHIL NOWLAN
and DICK CALKINS

2431 A.D.

ALURA, A MARTIAN PRINCESS, AND I, BUDDY DEERING OF EARTH HAD BECOME REIGNING MONARCHS OF THE PLANET MERCURY - AND THEN FOUND OURSELVES WITH A REVOLUTION ON OUR HANDS - DISASTER HAD SEEMED INEVITABLE, BUT BY A LUCKY BREAK WE HAD CAPTURED GORRO, THE LEADER OF THE REBELS, AND WERE STREAKING BACK TO OUR CAPITAL WITH HIM.

OUR PURSUERS WERE GAINING RAPIDLY.



IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF MINUTES NOW BEFORE THEY OVERTAKE US!

WELL, ELOBIEM SEEMS ABLE TO HOLD HIM ALL RIGHT - ALL RIGHT!

WE'VE GOT TO KEEP GORRO IN OUR HANDS, WE NEED HIM AS A HOSTAGE!

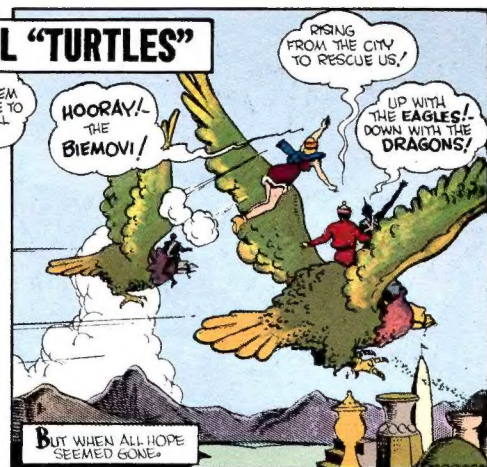
MECHANICAL "TURTLES"

HOORAY! - THE BIEMOVI!

RIISING FROM THE CITY TO RESCUE US!

UP WITH THE EAGLES! - DOWN WITH THE DRAGONS!

BUT WHEN ALL HOPE SEEMED GONE.



THEN CAME THE ARMORED FLYERS OF MY OWN GUARD - SNAPPING INTO ACTION!



GO GETTEM, BOYS! - I'LL BE WITH YOU AS SOON AS I GET A FLYING BELT!

YOU WILL NOT, BUDDY DEERING! - YOU'RE GOING TO STAY WITH ME!

BACK OF THE REBEL LINES LAILLA, GORRO'S NIECE, AND ULIA, LEADER OF THE LITTLE FOLK, STROVE TO RALLY THEIR FORCES.



IT'S USELESS! - ALL LOST! - GORRO IS CAPTURED!

STOP! - STOP! GET BACK INTO THAT FIGHT!

THEN CAME THE GIRLS OF ALURA'S GUARD - EQUIPPED WITH FLYING BELTS.

COME ON, GIRLS! - IT'S KING BUDDY AND QUEEN ALURA - SOCK THOSE DRAGONEERS WHO ARE CHASING THEM!



THE RETREAT OF THE REBELS BECAME A ROUT.



WE'RE LICKED - AND WE KNOW IT!

HAVE MERCY ON US, O MIGHTY SOVEREIGNS!

WHY OF COURSE IF YOU BEHAVE YOURSELVES.



NEXT DAY LAILLA AND ULIA CAME IN WITH A FLAG OF TRUCE.

AND PEACE WAS SIGNED IN THE WEDDING OF ALURA, CAPTAIN OF ALURA'S GUARD, TO GORRO, EX-LEADER OF THE REVOLT.

AND BOSS, TOO! - DON'T FORGET THAT, MY DEAR.

AH! MY WONDERFUL BRIDE!



WE DEVOTED THE NEXT FEW MONTHS TO BUILDING CONSTRUCTION IN BUDDALURA, OUR CAPITAL.

THE BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING WILL GO THERE!

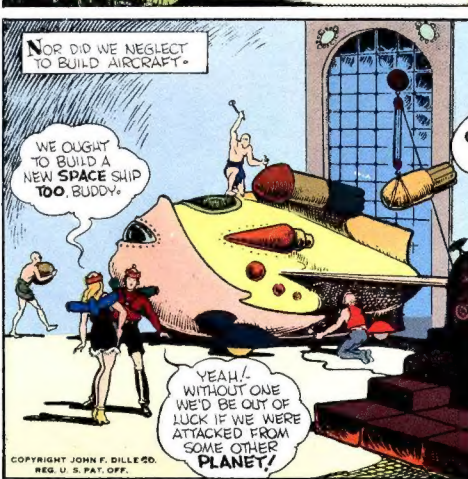
AND THE NEW POWER HOUSE THERE!



NOR DID WE NEGLECT TO BUILD AIRCRAFT.

WE OUGHT TO BUILD A NEW SPACE SHIP TOO, BUDDY.

YEAH! - WITHOUT ONE WE'D BE OUT OF LUCK IF WE WERE ATTACKED FROM SOME OTHER PLANET!



THEN SUDDENLY ONE DAY, OUR BORDER GUARD SAW -

STRANGE MACHINES! - COMING OUT OF THE DESERT! - SHOOTING AT US.

B-BUT - NO VENUSIANS KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MACHINES EXCEPT WHAT BUDDY AND ALURA HAVE TAUGHT US - WHERE DO THESE MECHANICAL TURTLES COME FROM?



BAM!

(TO BE CONTINUED)